GOLD KEY

TWILIGHT ZONE

STILL ONLY 12c

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

ROD SERLING

10016-405
MAY

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An ancient curse that turns its victims to stone strikes again from The Twilight Zone!

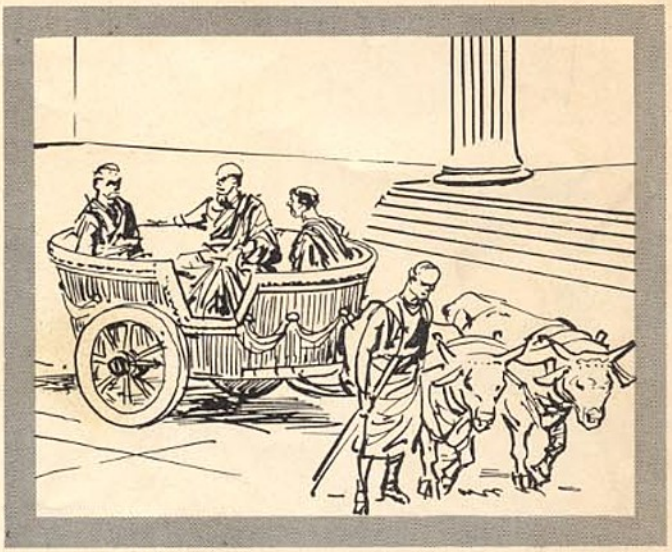
KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ROADS and VEHICLES

NUMBER 25

CLASSIC ROMAN VEHICLES

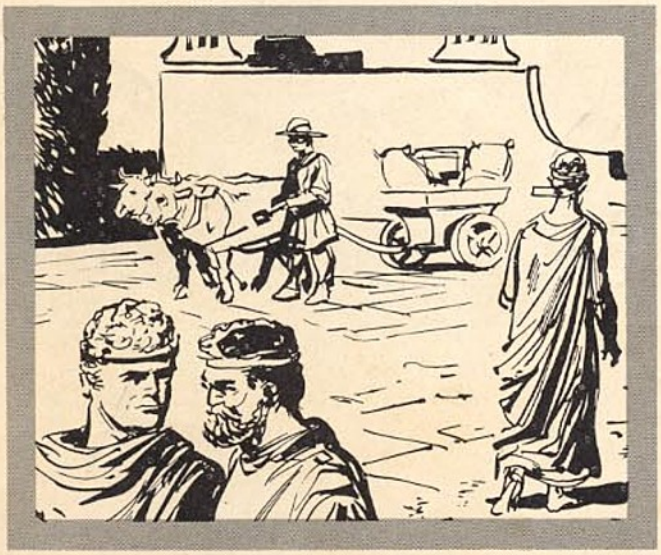
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



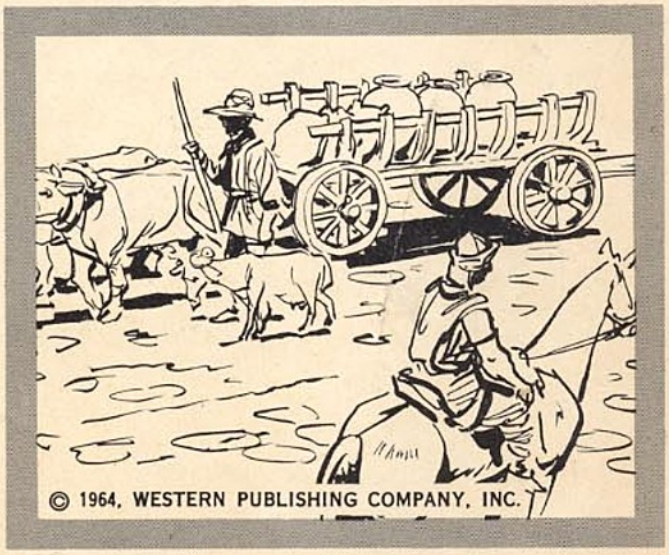
The Rheda was common about 300 A.D. as a hired hack. It seated 6 passengers. In open country the Rheda was pulled by mules.

Within Rome, the Rheda was pulled by oxen at a slow and steady speed. Cicero often wrote letters while riding in a Rheda.

Roman ladies favored the Monachus for informal traveling. A light one-horse cart, it was easily handled in the crowded city.



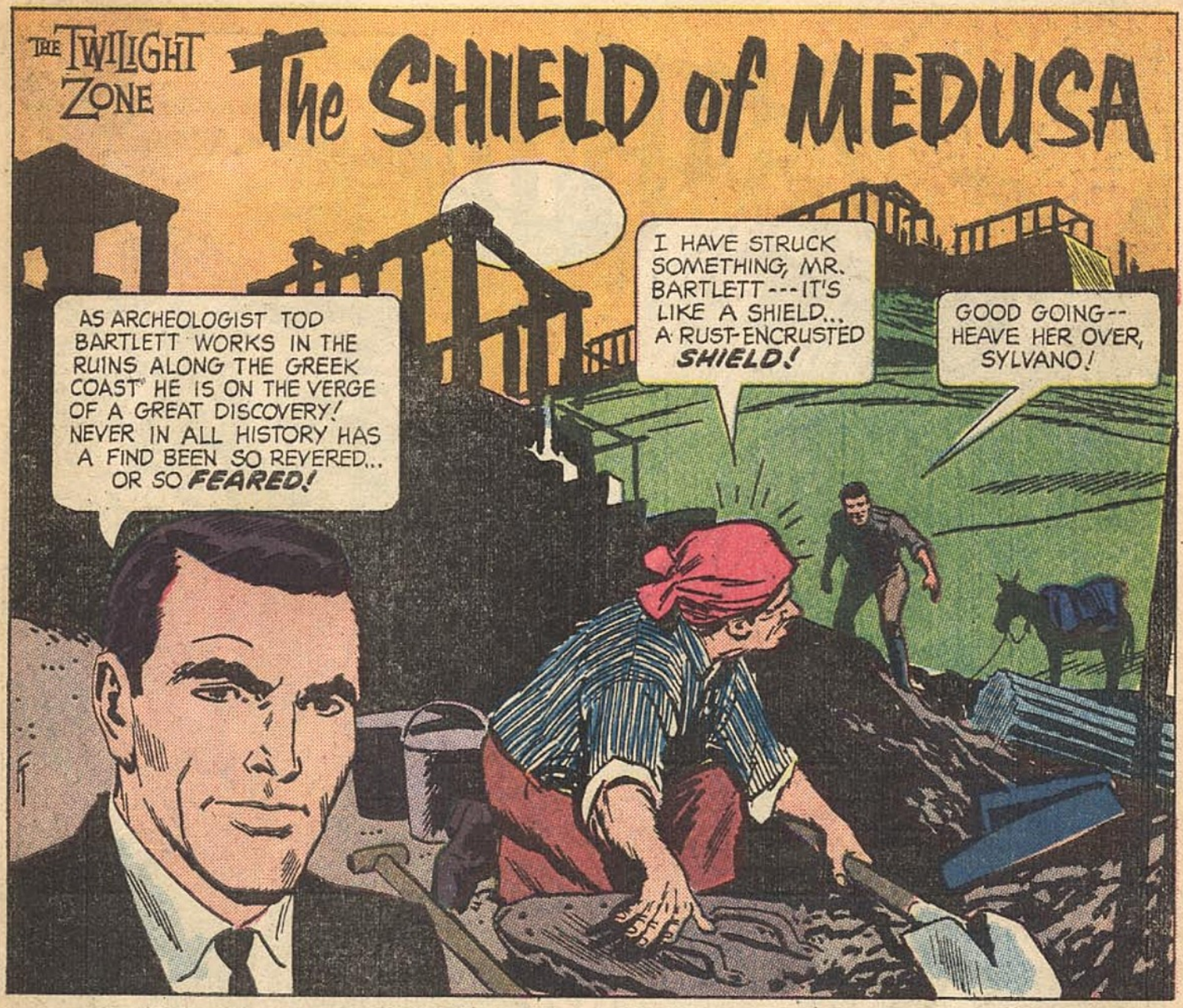
For general hauling, Romans used the Carrus, a two-wheeled oxcart. The army used these sturdy vehicles as baggage wagons.



The Carrus Clabularius was a four-wheeled cart used for general hauling. Drivers urged animals on by means of pointed goads.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

The SHIELD of MEDUSA


AS ARCHEOLOGIST TOD BARTLETT WORKS IN THE RUINS ALONG THE GREEK COAST HE IS ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY! NEVER IN ALL HISTORY HAS A FIND BEEN SO REVERED... OR SO FEARED!
I HAVE STRUCK SOMETHING, MR. BARTLETT --- IT'S LIKE A SHIELD... A RUST-ENCRUSTED SHIELD!
GOOD GOING-- HEAVE HER OVER, SYLVANO!

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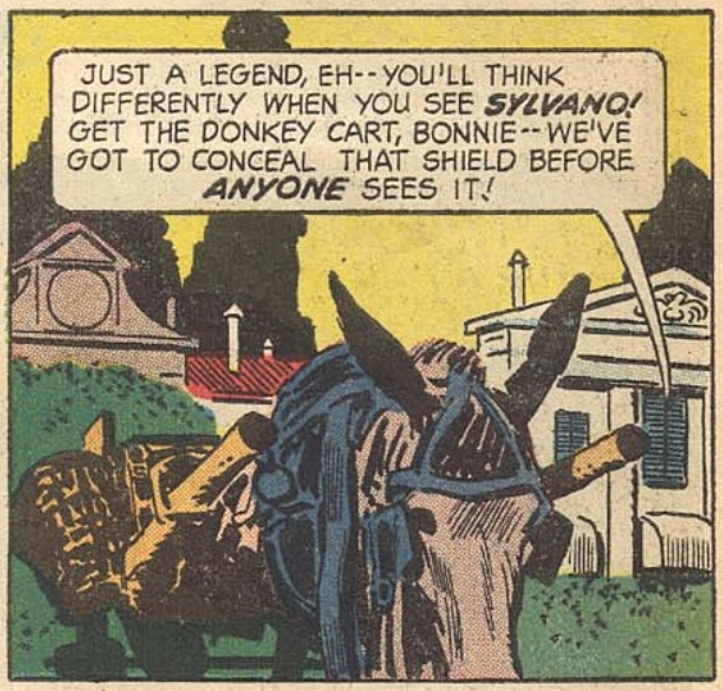
CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us four weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

GREAT GRIEF! WHAT IS IT, SYLVANO--- WHAT'S HAPPENED?
YAAAAAAMMFFF
HE SEEMS FROZEN-STIFF... H-HE'S TURNING WHITE!
SYLVANO... SYLVANO...
KA-FLOOMP

YOU LOVED ME ONCE... BEFORE I BECAME PARTNERS WITH BARTLETT!
TOD!
GRRRD

WHAT HAS HAPPENED, PARTNER?
TH-THE LEGEND... THE TERRIBLE LEGEND... IT'S COME TO LIFE AGAIN...

AND FINALLY, WHEN THE SHOCKED ARCHEOLOGIST HAS REGAINED HIS SENSES..
MEDUSA'S HEAD-- BUT, TOD, THAT'S ONLY A WILD STORY!
CERTAINLY, FRIEND-- YOU MUST HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE SUN TOO LONG!
HA!


JUST A LEGEND, EH--YOU'LL THINK DIFFERENTLY WHEN YOU SEE SYLVANO! GET THE DONKEY CART, BONNIE--WE'VE GOT TO CONCEAL THAT SHIELD BEFORE ANYONE SEES IT!

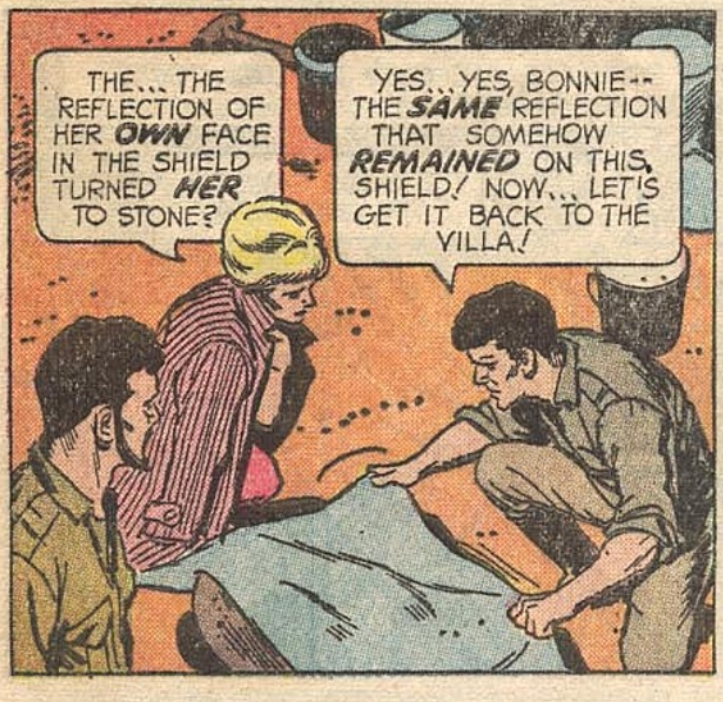
AND SHORTLY....
I-INCREDIBLE...THE MEDUSA SHIELD! I... CAN NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY HOW THE LEGEND WENT...BUT IT WAS TERRIBLE, I RECALL.
IT WAS MORE THAN THAT, DEMIUS-- IT WAS A LEGENDARY NIGHTMARE!

WITH TREMBLING FINGERS, TOD BARTLETT EXPLORES THE COLD, WHITE FACE OF HIS HELPER... UNTIL THE TERRIBLE TRUTH DAWNS UPON HIM...
HE'S WHITE... COLD...
...AND...AND HARD...
STONE! S-SYLVANO'S TURNED TO STONE!
THE SHIELD DID IT... HE LOOKED INTO THE SHIELD AND TURNED TO STONE... I-IT CAN ONLY BE ONE THING...
TH-THE HEAD OF MEDUSA-- SYLVANO SAW... THE HEAD OF MEDUSA!
AND AS TOD BARTLETT STAGGERS TOWARDS HIS VILLA HEADQUARTERS DOWN THE COAST...
DEMIUS... LET ME GO-- IT'S ALL OVER BETWEEN US! YOU KNOW THAT!
NO... NO... IT CAN NOT BE, BONNIE!
GRRRR

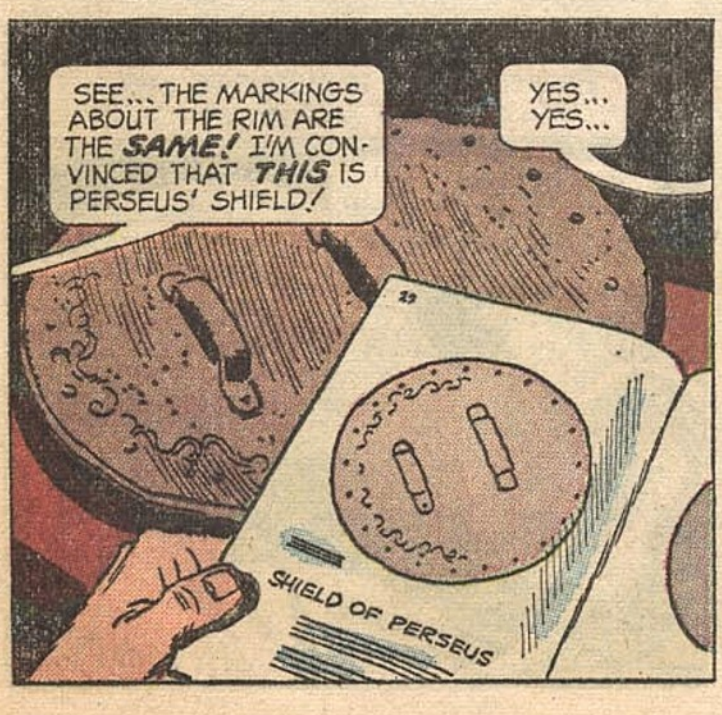
MEDUSA WAS ONE OF THREE SISTERS IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY! SHE OFFENDED THE GODDESS, ATHENA... AND FOR THIS, PAID A FEARSOME PRICE WITH HER MOST PRIZED POSSESSION...
"HER HAIR WAS TURNED TO SERPENTS... AND..."
AND HENCEFORTH, ALL WHO LOOK UPON YOUR HIDEOUS FACE SHALL FORTHWITH BE TURNED TO STONE!
"SHE STRUCK TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE POPULACE, AND ONLY THE LUCKY ONES MANAGED TO AVERT THEIR FACES FROM HER IN TIME..."
THE GODS SAVE US... IT'S MEDUSA!
"IT WAS THEN THAT THE HEROIC PERSEUS WAS CHOSEN TO ELIMINATE THE EVIL..."
TAKE MY SCIMITAR AS YOU PURSUE MEDUSA, O PERSEUS--BUT I KNOW NOT HOW YOU CAN DESTROY WHAT YOU DARE NOT SEE!
I HAVE A MEANS, NOBLE HERMES!
"PERSEUS SPED TO MEDUSA'S LAIR BY THE GREAT OCEAN..."
SHE SLEEPS... TO DEFEAT HER I MUST AWAKEN HER FIRST...
HO, MEDUSA!

"MEDUSA SPRANG UP, EYES FLASHING... HER SERPENTINE HAIR ALIVE WITH WRATH..."
WHO DARES TO HAIL MEDUSA?
IT IS I, PERSEUS-- COME TO DESTROY YOU!

"THEN PERSEUS GAMBLED HIS LIFE... AND WON!"
ARRGL


THE... THE REFLECTION OF HER OWN FACE IN THE SHIELD TURNED HER TO STONE?
YES... YES, BONNIE-- THE SAME REFLECTION THAT SOMEHOW REMAINED ON THIS SHIELD! NOW... LET'S GET IT BACK TO THE VILLA!

AND LATER, THE LURE OF THE LEGEND CAPTIVATES THE THREE FAR INTO THE NIGHT...
I... STILL CAN NOT BELIEVE IT! HOW DO WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THIS IS THE MEDUSA SHIELD?
SO YOU DOUBT, DEMIUS-- LOOK... LOOK HERE IN THIS BOOK ON GREEK MYTHOLOGY...


SEE... THE MARKINGS ABOUT THE RIM ARE THE SAME! I'M CONVINCED THAT THIS IS PERSEUS' SHIELD!
YES... YES...
SHIELD OF PERSEUS

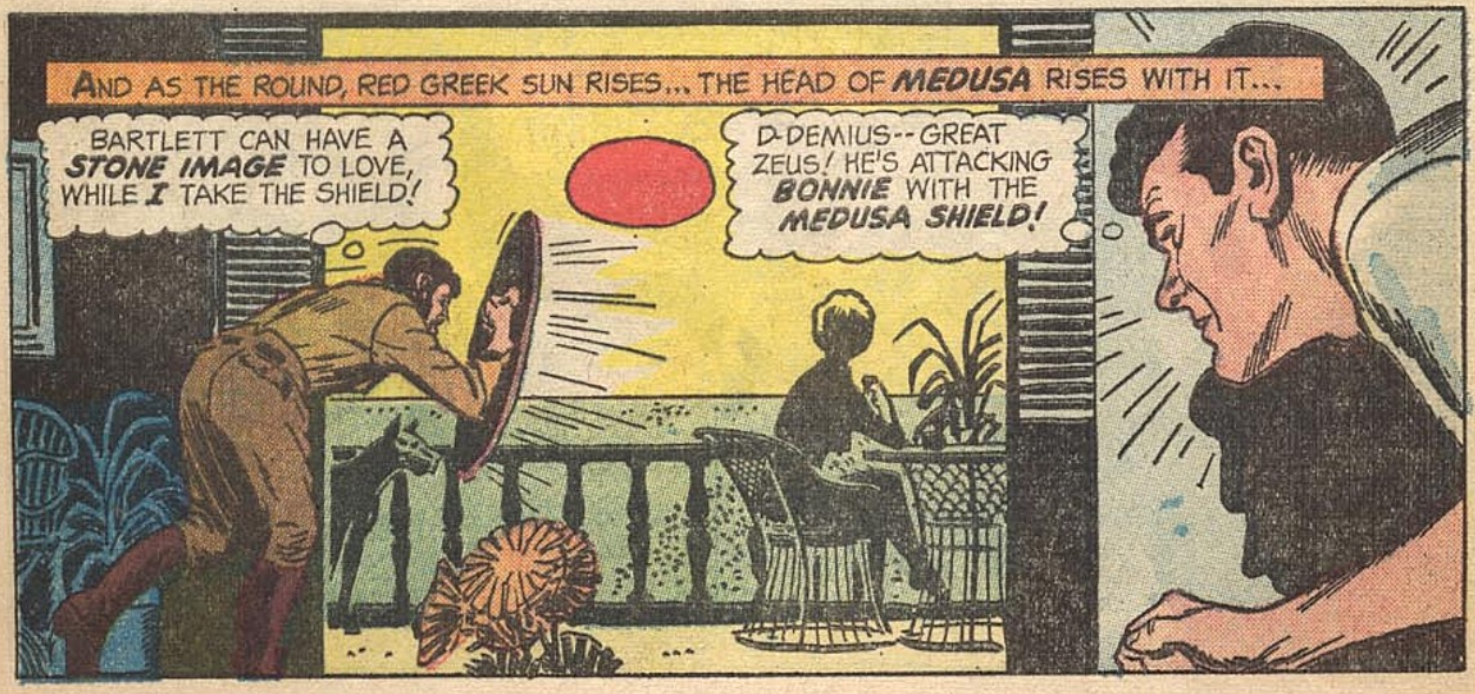
BUT THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE SHIELD CARRYING MEDUSA'S HEAD ON IT AFTER THE SLAYING-- WOULD NOT THE SHIELD HAVE BECOME DANGEROUS THEN?
I'VE ALREADY REASONED THAT OUT, DEMIUS...

THE IMAGE WAS SO POWERFUL IT MUST HAVE AFFECTED THE MOLECULES OF THE SHIELD! OVER THE CENTURIES, THE CHEMICAL CONTENT OF THE EARTH BROUGHT IT OUT...
OF COURSE... THE RUINS ARE IN A HEAVY COPPER DEPOSIT...

IT MUST HAVE FORMED THE IMAGE OF MEDUSA'S HEAD LIKE A PHOTOGRAPH IS DEVELOPED!
EXACTLY! NOW LET'S GET SOME REST! -- IN THE MORNING WE'LL DESTROY THE SHIELD AND PROTECT THE WORLD FROM ITS ACCURSED POWER!

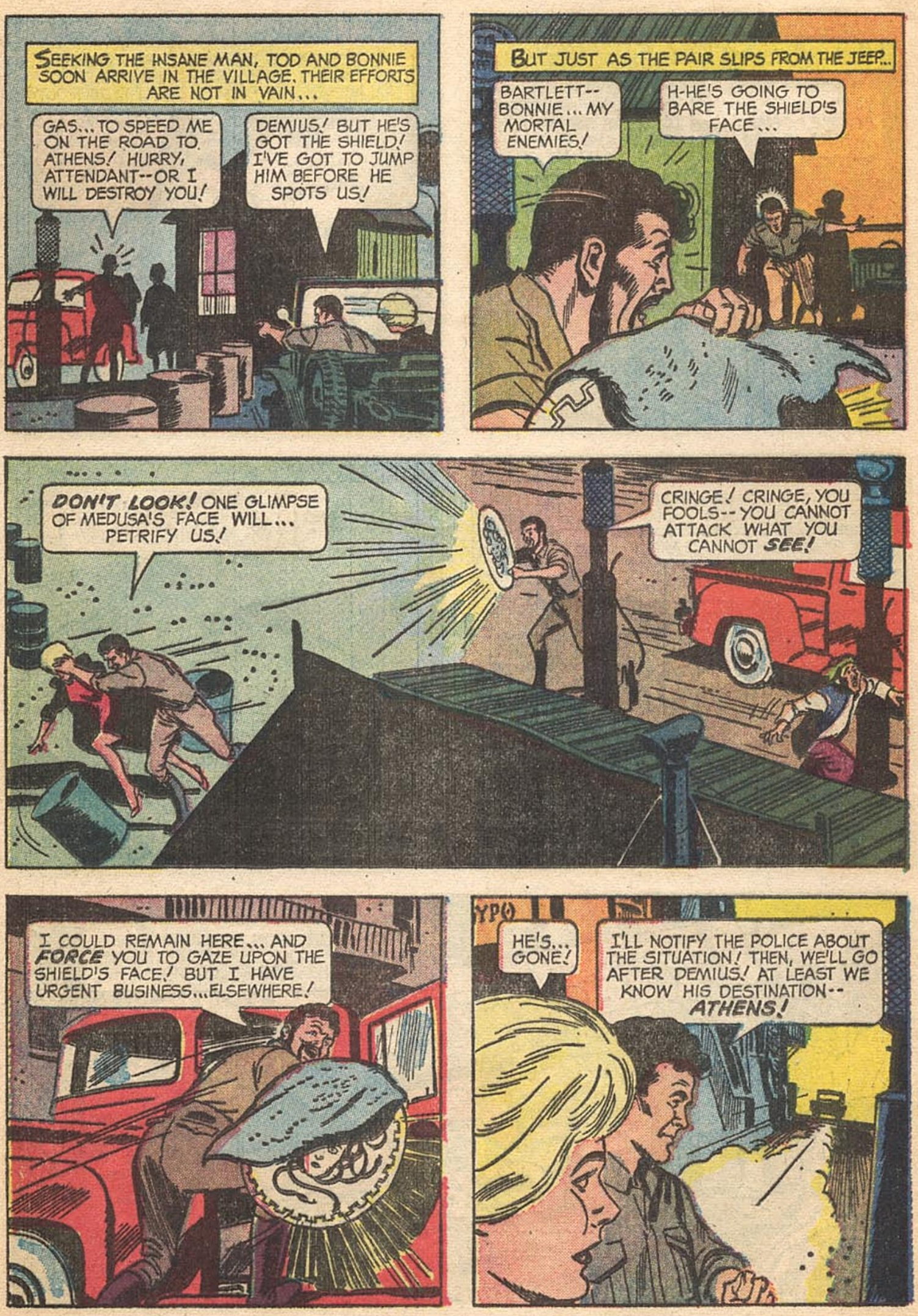
BUT ONE MEMBER OF THE EXPLORING TEAM DOES NOT SLEEP THAT NIGHT...
THE MOST FANTASTIC FIND IN ALL ARCHEOLOGICAL HISTORY, MINOTAUR -- AND TOMORROW BARTLETT WILL DESTROY IT!

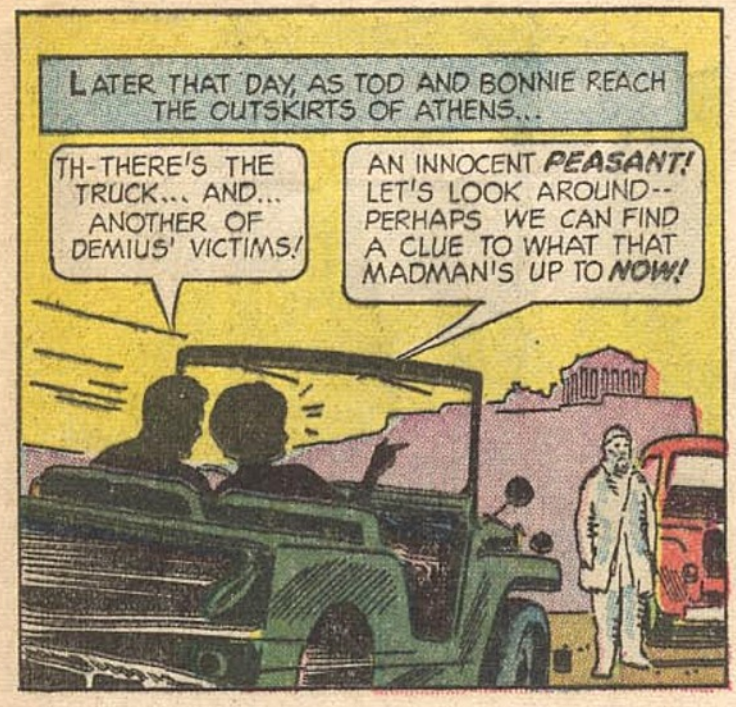
HE'S WON MY GIRL... RECEIVED ALL THE ACCLAIM IN OUR PROFESSION... AND NOW HE SEEKS TO DEPRIVE ME OF THE RICHES THIS WILL BRING! WELL, HE WON'T! WHEN BONNIE GOES TO THE TERRACE FOR HER MORNING COFFEE SHE'LL NEVER MOVE AGAIN...


AND AS THE ROUND, RED GREEK SUN RISES... THE HEAD OF MEDUSA RISES WITH IT...
BARTLETT CAN HAVE A STONE IMAGE TO LOVE, WHILE I TAKE THE SHIELD!
D-DEMIUS -- GREAT ZEUS! HE'S ATTACKING BONNIE WITH THE MEDUSA SHIELD!

BONNIE--LOOK OUT! SHUT YOUR EYES!
THE BODIES CLASH--A RING OF ANCIENT STEEL FILLS THE AIR AS...
MINOTAUR--GET HIM!
GRRRRR!
AND ABRUPTLY, A CENTURIES-OLD LEGENDARY CURSE STRIKES WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF LIGHT..
MINOTAUR--TURNING TO STONE!
YEEEEP
THEN...
OH-H!
THE SHIELD... IT IS FACE DOWN... I MUST ESCAPE WITH IT!
T-TOD!

THEN THE STUNNED ARCHEOLOGIST RECOVERS...
I-I'M ALL RIGHT, BONNIE! DEMIUS-WHERE IS HE?
OH, IT WAS TERRIBLE, TOD... HE SEIZED THE SHIELD AND LEFT IN THE PICK-UP TRUCK!
THE POWER OF THE SHIELD HAS DRIVEN HIM INSANE WITH GREED AND JEALOUSY! I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE! GET THE JEEP OUT!
LATER, THE POWER-CRAZED DEMIUS SPEEDS INTO A TINY GREEK FISHING VILLAGE WHERE..
A ROADBLOCK--AND ARMED CONSTABLES! BARTLETT MUST HAVE ALERTED THEM...
HALT! WE COMMAND YOU!
NO ONE COMMANDS DEMIUS...POSSESSOR OF PERSEUS' SHIELD!
GOOD--GAZE UPON MEDUSA'S FACE! TRANSFORM YOURSELVES INTO STONE! STATUES CAN'T FIRE RIFLES...HA, HA, HA!
GRAAASH!!

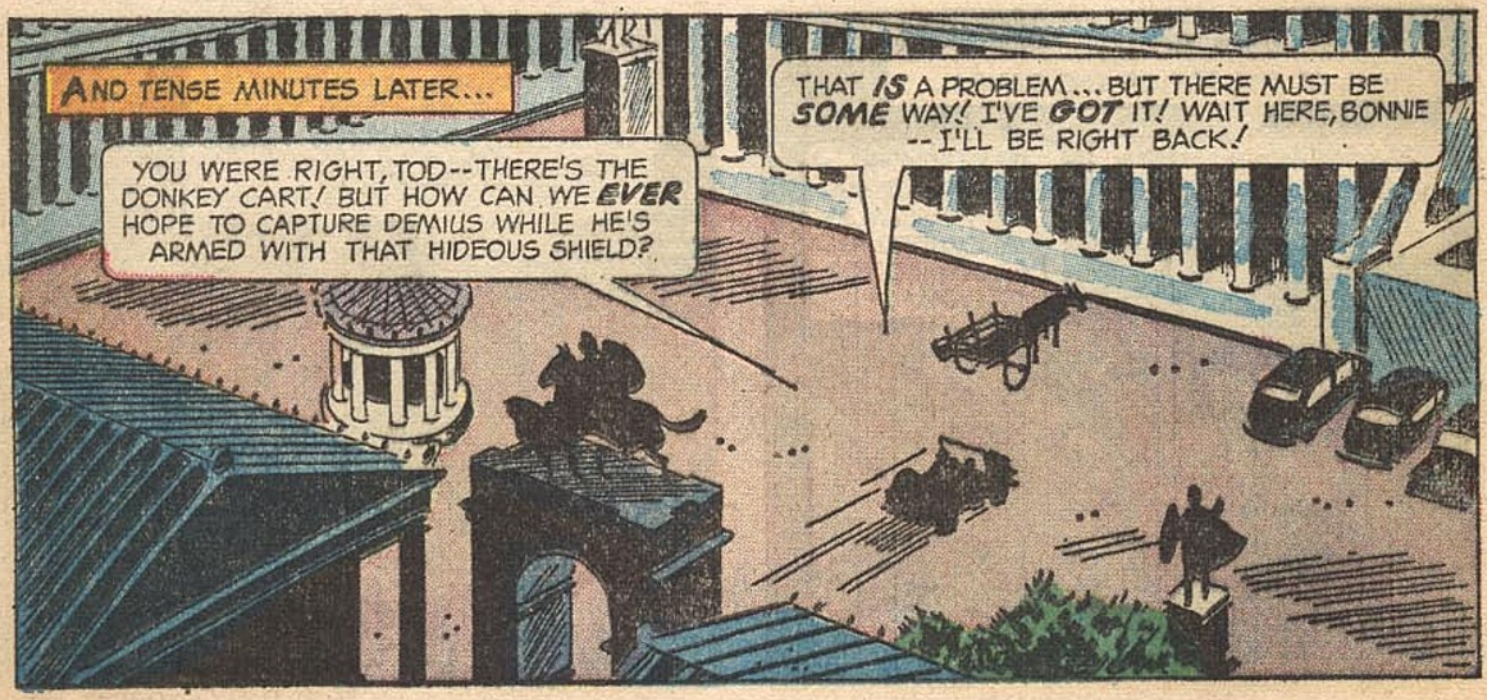

SEEKING THE INSANE MAN, TOD AND BONNIE SOON ARRIVE IN THE VILLAGE. THEIR EFFORTS ARE NOT IN VAIN...
GAS... TO SPEED ME ON THE ROAD TO ATHENS! HURRY, ATTENDANT--OR I WILL DESTROY YOU!
DEMIUS! BUT HE'S GOT THE SHIELD! I'VE GOT TO JUMP HIM BEFORE HE SPOTS US!
BUT JUST AS THE PAIR SLIPS FROM THE JEEP...
BARTLETT--BONNIE... MY MORTAL ENEMIES!
H-HE'S GOING TO BARE THE SHIELD'S FACE...
DON'T LOOK! ONE GLIMPSE OF MEDUSA'S FACE WILL... PETRIFY US!
CRINGE! CRINGE, YOU FOOLS--YOU CANNOT ATTACK WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE!
I COULD REMAIN HERE... AND FORCE YOU TO GAZE UPON THE SHIELD'S FACE! BUT I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS...ELSEWHERE!
HE'S... GONE!
I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE ABOUT THE SITUATION! THEN, WE'LL GO AFTER DEMIUS! AT LEAST WE KNOW HIS DESTINATION-- ATHENS!


LATER THAT DAY, AS TOD AND BONNIE REACH THE OUTSKIRTS OF ATHENS...
TH-THERE'S THE TRUCK... AND... ANOTHER OF DEMIUS' VICTIMS!
AN INNOCENT PEASANT! LET'S LOOK AROUND-- PERHAPS WE CAN FIND A CLUE TO WHAT THAT MADMAN'S UP TO NOW!

CARTWHEEL TRACKS... OF COURSE -- DEMIUS RAN OUT OF GAS AND STOLE THIS PEASANT'S DONKEY CART TO REACH ATHENS!
HE MUST BE THERE BY NOW-- HE DIDN'T HAVE FAR TO GO! LET'S HURRY, TOD!

SHORTLY, AS THE JEEP SPEEDS INTO PICTURESQUE ATHENS...
A MAN WITH A SHIELD... IN A DONKEY CART! HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?
HE WHO QUESTIONS-- COME CLOSER!

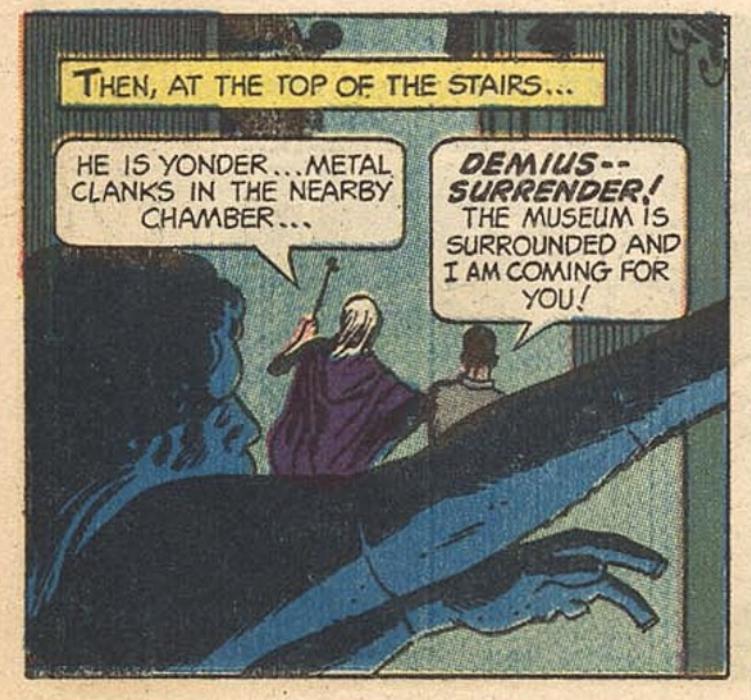
MY EARS HEARD SUCH A CART! IT WAS TRAVELING AT A FAST PACE AND TURNED ABOUT THIS CORNER!
BONNIE--THAT STREET LEADS TO CITY MUSEUM! OF COURSE! DEMIUS IS OUT TO STEAL THE PRICELESS RELICS HE'S ALWAYS ADMIRED!


AND TENSE MINUTES LATER...
YOU WERE RIGHT, TOD--THERE'S THE DONKEY CART! BUT HOW CAN WE EVER HOPE TO CAPTURE DEMIUS WHILE HE'S ARMED WITH THAT HIDEOUS SHIELD?
THAT IS A PROBLEM... BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY! I'VE GOT IT! WAIT HERE, BONNIE -- I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

AND LATER, AS TOD BARTLETT RETURNS...
THE BLIND MAN...BUT, TOD...
JUST BLINDFOLD ME, BONNIE! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN PROTECT OTHERS AND STILL CATCH DEMIUS WITHOUT TURNING TO STONE MYSELF!

READY, SIR...
READY, SEEING ONE-- YOU CAN TRUST YOUR EYES WITH ME... I KNOW THESE GROUNDS WELL!

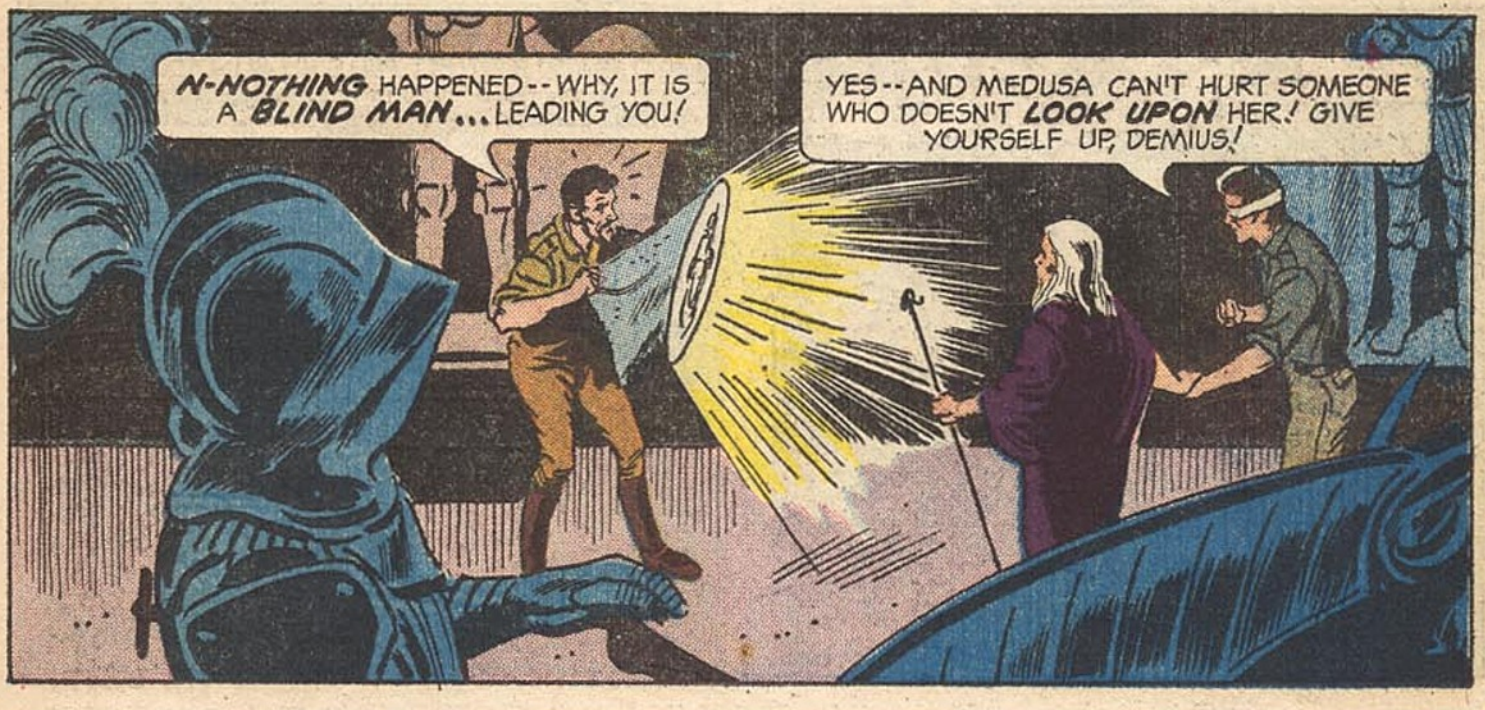
TOGETHER, THE TWO SIGHTLESS MEN ENTER THE QUIET DARKNESS OF THE ANCIENT MUSEUM AND...
I HEAR SOUNDS... FROM THE UPPER FLOOR, SEEING ONE!
LEAD ME THERE... HURRY...


THEN, AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS...
HE IS YONDER...METAL CLANKS IN THE NEARBY CHAMBER...
DEMIUS-- SURRENDER! THE MUSEUM IS SURROUNDED AND I AM COMING FOR YOU!

YOUR BRAINS ARE SURELY AS SCRAMBLED AS GREEK SALAD, BARTLETT! TO THREATEN DEMIUS AND HIS SHIELD IS CERTAIN DEATH FOR ALL!

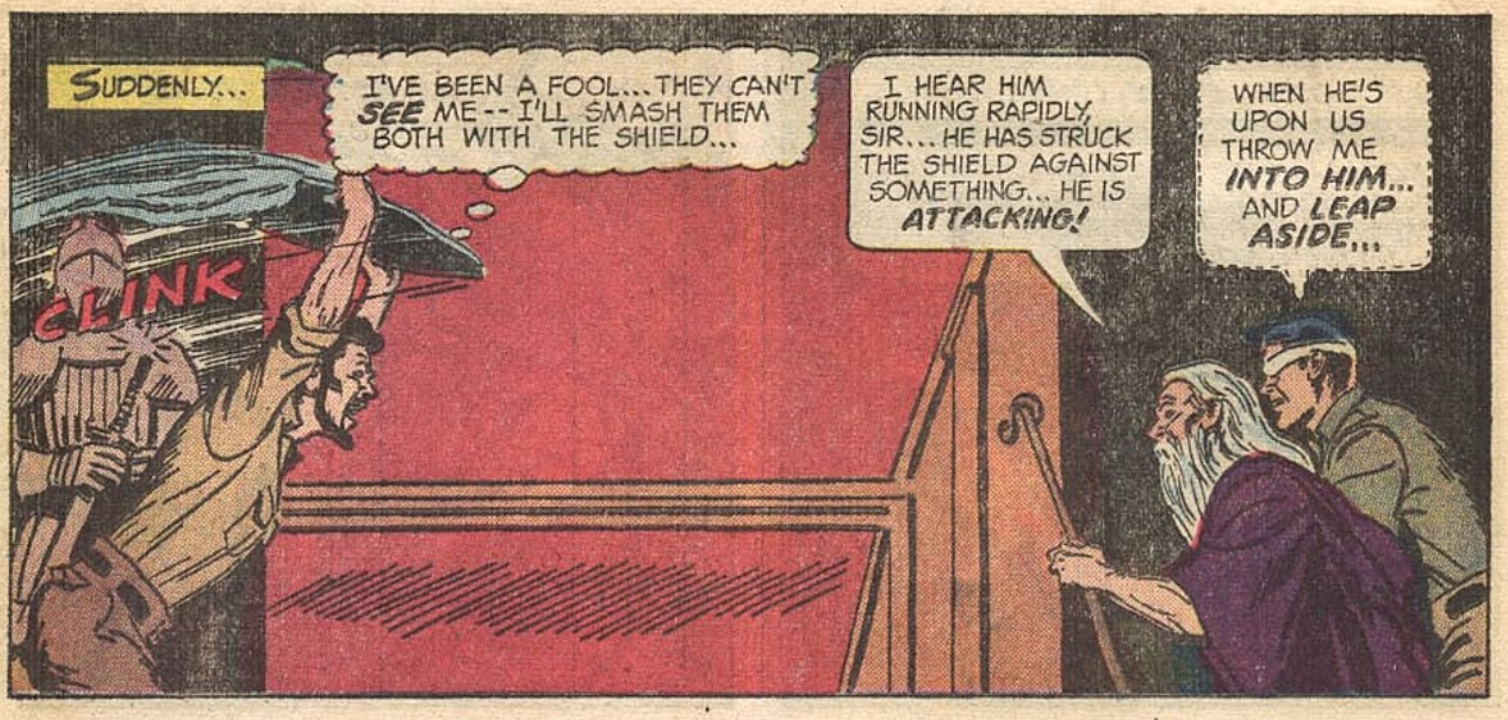
BUT CLOSER... CLOSER COME THE PAIR...
FOOL--- ONCE I HAVE TURNED YOUR FLESH TO STONE YOU SHALL REST IN MY HOME WITH THE OTHER ART OBJECTS I STEAL THIS EVENING...

UNTIL...
DIE, BARTLETT!

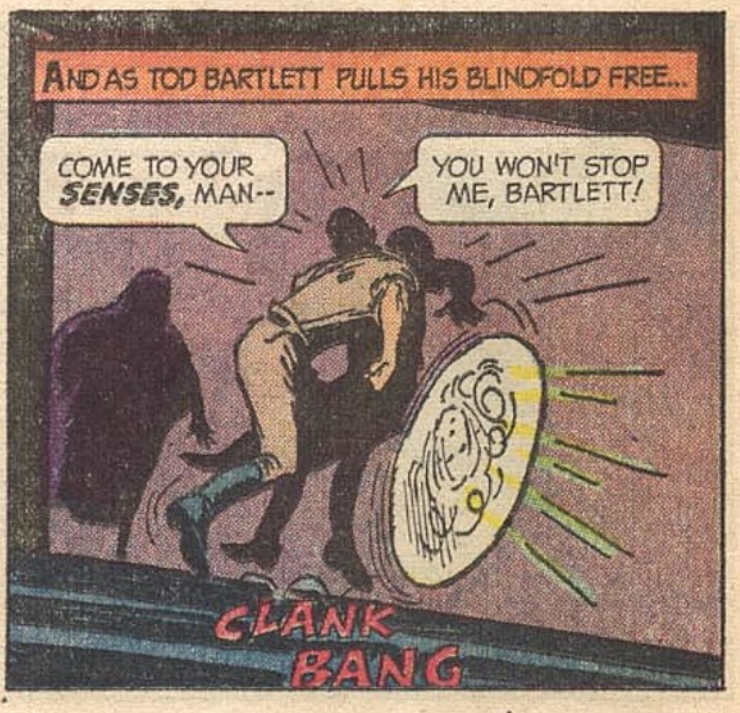

N-NOTHING HAPPENED--WHY, IT IS A BLIND MAN... LEADING YOU!
YES--AND MEDUSA CAN'T HURT SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LOOK UPON HER! GIVE YOURSELF UP, DEMIUS!

NO... NO... YOU CAN NOT KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED FOREVER!
AFTER HIM... AFTER HIM...

THE BIZARRE PURSUIT WEAVES THROUGH CORRIDORS OF THE PAST...
REMEMBER... JUST LEAD ME UP TO HIM... THEN LEAP ASIDE...


SUDDENLY...
I'VE BEEN A FOOL... THEY CAN'T SEE ME -- I'LL SMASH THEM BOTH WITH THE SHIELD...
CLINK
I HEAR HIM RUNNING RAPIDLY, SIR... HE HAS STRUCK THE SHIELD AGAINST SOMETHING... HE IS ATTACKING!
WHEN HE'S UPON US THROW ME INTO HIM... AND LEAP ASIDE...

THEN...
NOW, SIR...


AND AS TOD BARTLETT PULLS HIS BLINDFOLD FREE...
COME TO YOUR SENSES, MAN--
YOU WON'T STOP ME, BARTLETT!
CLANK
BANG

ABRUPTLY, THE FLAILING BODIES LOSE THEIR BALANCE AND CATAPULT DOWNWARD...
BANG!

"Human Radio Receivers"

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A man walks down the streets of a large city humming softly to himself and tapping his cane in time to music. A woman tells her daughter the plot of a new radio show she has just heard—without a radio. And, in Ohio, an elderly man is examined by psychiatrists when he insists a T V drama is going on inside his head. These events have been reported and have a sound basis in fact . . . radio waves that are picked up by human "receivers."

The equipment for these "blood and flesh" receivers is relatively simple, compared to the intricate parts required by their mechanical brothers, the radio. False bridgework, metal links between the teeth, hair curlers and metal eyeglass frames can all enable the human himself to pick up radio waves as they constantly move through the air about us.

How do these seemingly bizarre happenings come about? The answer, some experts say, is nearly as simple as listening to your tiny portable transistor radio. Let's look at a case closely and see how this conclusion might be reached.

A carborundum worker in New Jersey took on the type of plant job that put him in close bodily contact with metallic dust. After some months on the job fellow workers may have noticed a strange look in his eyes. He seemed preoccupied—as if listening to a distant sound. But when questioned the worker went into his shell and said nothing. Finally, unable to conceal the facts any longer, he blurted out the truth —incredible as it sounded, he was listening to a radio station while going to and from work.

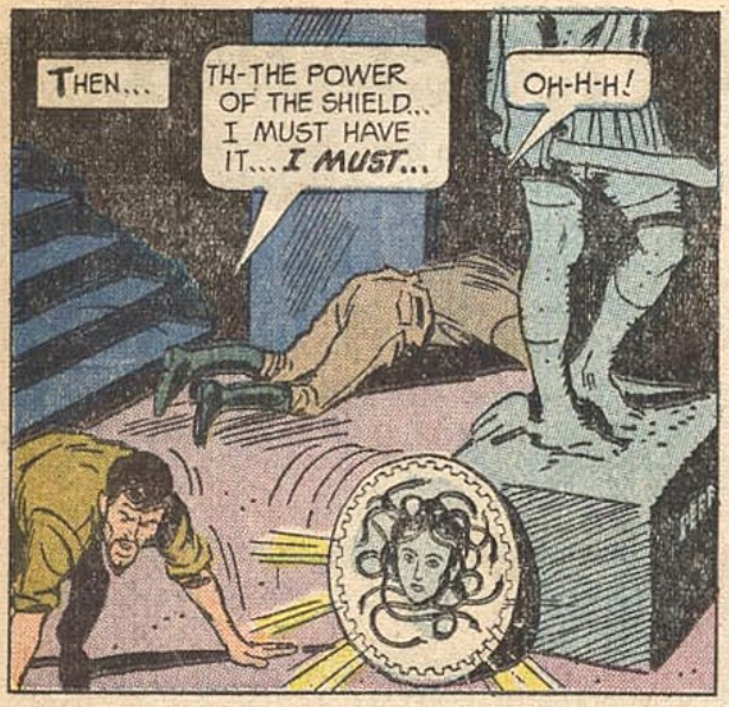
Undoubtedly, fellow workers and family alike reasoned they were witnessing some unusual form of nervous breakdown. But the real facts were established before harm could be done. First, the worker had retained enough carborundum in his mouth to act as a detector. Second, he recently had a great deal of gold work done on his teeth. Third, it was established that he had a sensitive jawbone. Together, these three factors set up a reaction. The teeth carried vibrations to the brain by bone conduction, similar to the fashion in which a crystal-tuned circuit functions. For all intents and purposes the worker was carrying a portable crystal set inside his mouth.

In much the same manner a woman who always carried a copper-headed cane and wore metal frame glasses claimed she was listening to planes flying overhead. Evidently, the copper part of the cane acted as an antenna and the metal frame of her glasses was carrying radio wave vibrations to her brain.

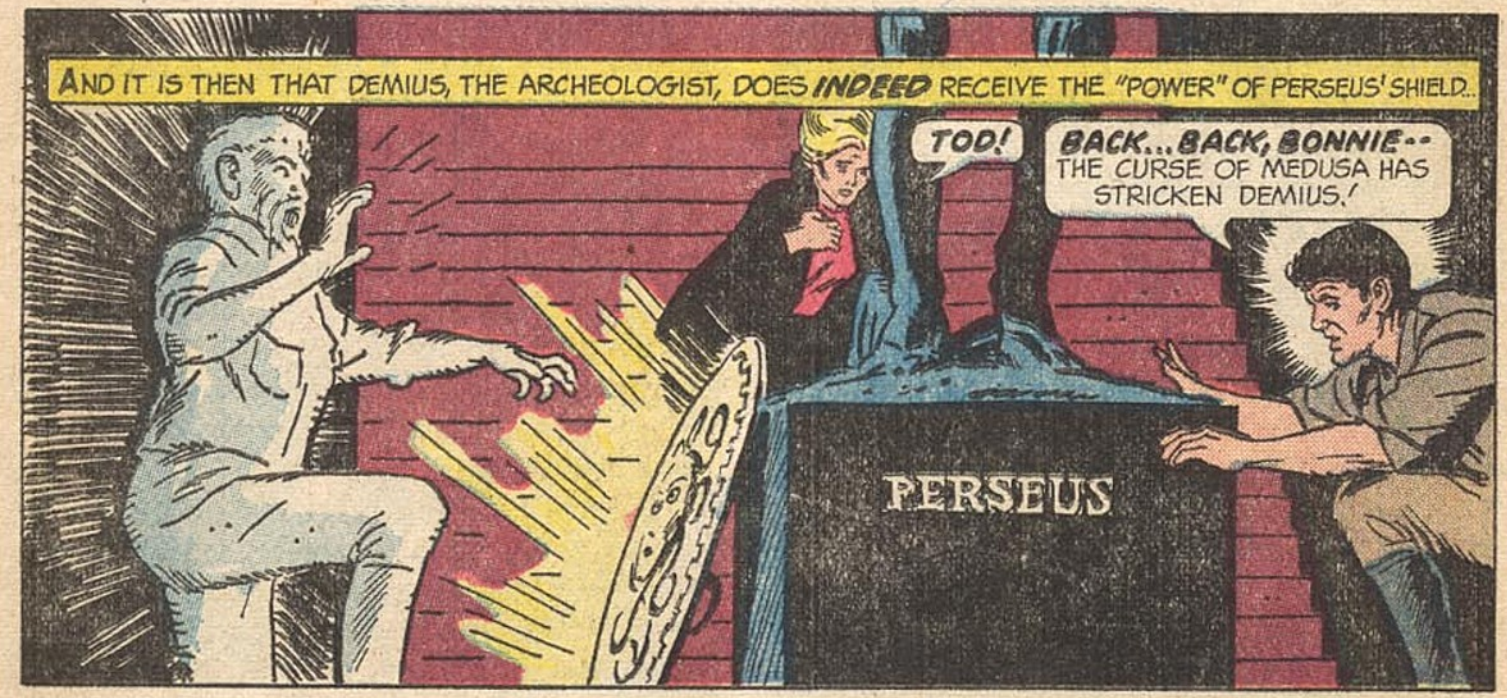
Of the hundreds of cases reported, there are dozens of variations of equipment on these human receivers. A grandmother who wears a hearing aid also gets radio messages—but only when she is eating with stainless steel silverware. Another woman reports "mental tunes" going through her mind when she has her hair up in curlers. And during the war, a GI states he and his buddies, sans radio, had a whale of a time listening to Tokyo Rose . . . by attaching a safety pin to a rusty razor blade and using a small piece of copper wire for an antenna.

But perhaps the most out-of-this-world report came from a woman who claimed she was hearing an exchange of secret information between Russia and Red China and wanted to notify the FBI. (Needless to say, knowledgeable people in radio don't go along with this one—they reason there must be some other explanation for *this* particular message.)

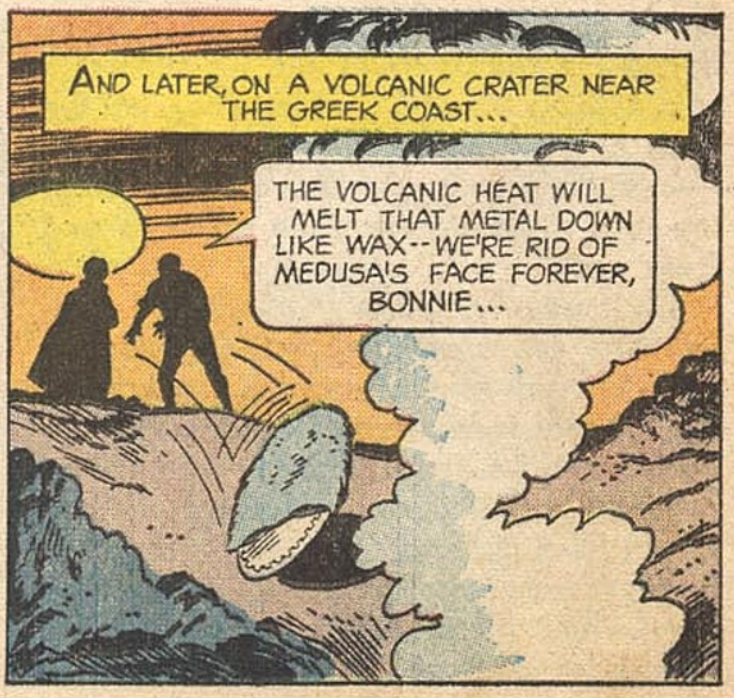
However, some experts predict that in the future almost anything is apt to occur with the human radio receivers. Just as the electronic computors of today are referred to as "thinking machines" because of their complex operations, tomorrow may find a similar change in human pick-up of radio waves. As our dentistry, hearing devices and even wearing apparel advances, who is to say what changes will occur. Perhaps one day just the right combination of space-age dental work, super hearing aids and acclimated apparel will enable us to *really* have intercontinental human radio receivers.


THEN...
TH-THE POWER OF THE SHIELD... I MUST HAVE IT... I MUST...
OH-H-H!

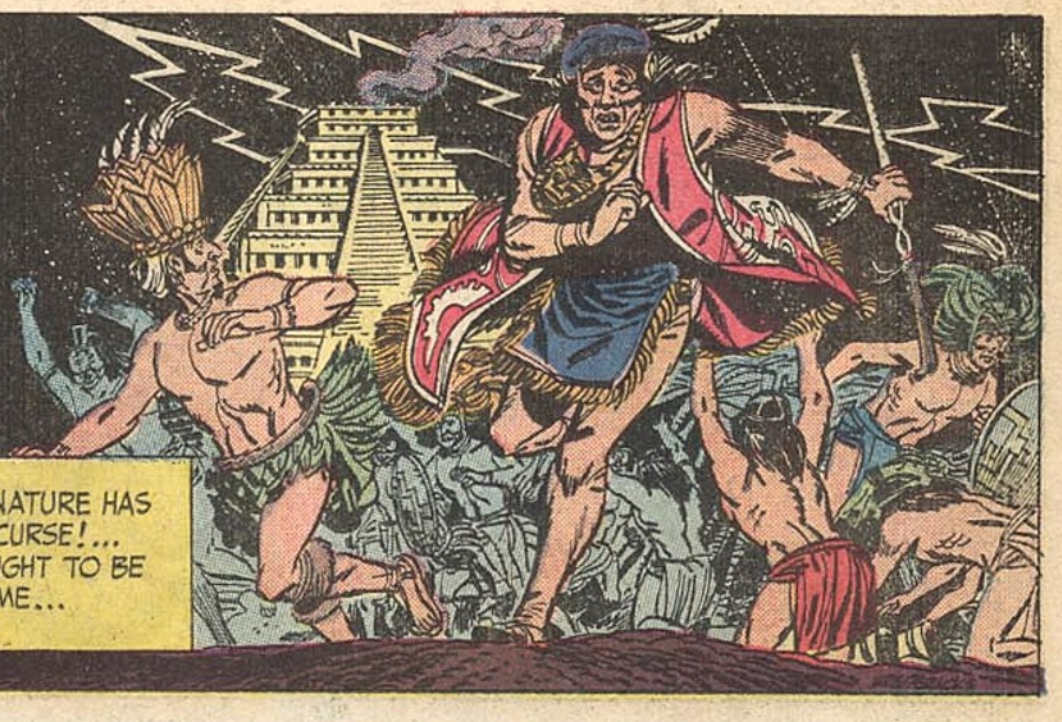
HATE SEETHES IN DEMIUS' POWER-CRAZED BRAIN... HE SEARCHES FOR HIS FOE, AND...
BARTLETT... HE IS DAZED... NOW I CAN DESTROY HIM...
YA
AGH


AND IT IS THEN THAT DEMIUS, THE ARCHEOLOGIST, DOES INDEED RECEIVE THE "POWER" OF PERSEUS' SHIELD...
TOD!
BACK... BACK, BONNIE-- THE CURSE OF MEDUSA HAS STRICKEN DEMIUS!
PERSEUS

T-TURNED TO STONE B-BESIDE THE VERY STATUE OF PERSEUS...
EASY, BONNIE... IT'S ALL OVER... AND I'M MAKING SURE THAT SHIELD WILL NEVER INJURE MANKIND AGAIN!


AND LATER, ON A VOLCANIC CRATER NEAR THE GREEK COAST...
THE VOLCANIC HEAT WILL MELT THAT METAL DOWN LIKE WAX-- WE'RE RID OF MEDUSA'S FACE FOREVER, BONNIE...

The Menace from OUT THERE



FEAR OF THE FORCES OF NATURE HAS PLAGUED MANKIND LIKE A CURSE!... LIGHTNING WAS ONCE THOUGHT TO BE AN OMEN OF EVIL BY SOME...

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AND FOR MANY CENTURIES, THE HEAVENLY PANORAMA OF THE DARKENED SUN DURING AN ECLIPSE WAS THE CAUSE OF TERROR AND BEWILDERMENT...

THE SUN IS *DYING!* THE HEAVENS ARE *ANGRY* WITH US!

B-BUT WHAT EVIL HAVE WE DONE?

IN PREHISTORIC TIMES, THE *FIRST* CAVEMAN TO STRIKE FIRE FROM FLINT UNDOUBTEDLY SPARKED FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF HIS ENEMIES...

BUT IN 1682 A PHENOMENON WAS OBSERVED OF SUCH MAGNITUDE IT WAS TO CARRY ITS OMEN OF FEAR DOWN TO US IN MODERN TIMES...

ANOTHER PLANET... IT IS CRASHING INTO US!

'TIS THE END OF THE WORLD!

IN 1759 THE FLAMING MASS ONCE AGAIN STREAKED ACROSS THE SKY...
A COMET, THEY CALL IT-- THE THING FAIR GIVES ME THE SHUDDERS, CAPTAIN!
AYE--WHO'S TO REALLY KNOW THE CAUSE OF A THING LIKE THAT! IT MUST BE AS BIG AS THE EARTH ITSELF!

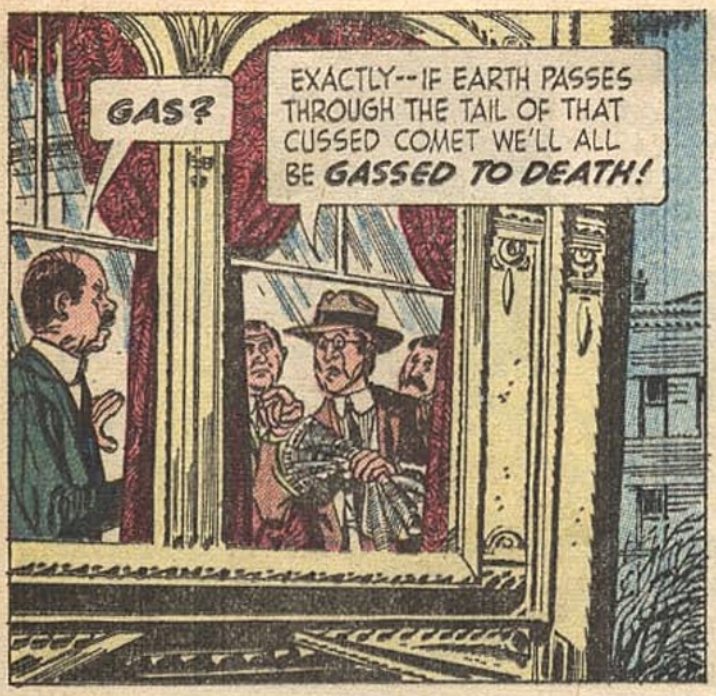
AGAIN IN 1835 THE AWESOME SPECTACLE RETURNED... AND AGAIN MAN AND BEAST ALIKE KNEW FEAR...
MERCY... MERCY!

ALL OVER THE WORLD, FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN CAUSED MANY A FRIGHTENED TONGUE TO WAG...
THEY SAY AN ASTRONOMER BACK IN 1682 PREDICTED THE FIERY COMET WOULD RETURN ABOUT EVERY SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS!
AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WHO'S TO KNOW THAT IT WON'T COME BACK EVERY YEAR-- AND WHO'S TO SAY IT WON'T BURN THE EARTH TO ASHES NEXT TIME!

SCIENCE ADVANCED--BUT FURTHER KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEAVENS SEEMED TO ONLY HEIGHTEN MAN'S FEAR OF THIS GREAT COMET... IN 1910...
HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS-- HALLEY'S COMET IS DUE TO APPEAR ANY DAY NOW!
WHY ALL THE EXCITEMENT, ANDREW? IT WILL BE A GOOD SIGHT TO WATCH!

AND MAYBE THE LAST SIGHT WE'LL EVER WATCH! LOOK HERE-- ASTRONOMERS SAY ITS TAIL IS MADE OF CYANOGEN GAS!


GAS?
EXACTLY--IF EARTH PASSES THROUGH THE TAIL OF THAT CUSSED COMET WE'LL ALL BE GASSED TO DEATH!

THE RUMOR LEAPT FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH LIKE WILDFIRE...
WHY, I'VE HEARD COMET TAILS ARE MILLIONS OF MILES IN LENGTH!
SURE--AND I READ SOMEWHERE THAT THIS TIME EARTH WILL PASS THROUGH THE TAIL OF HALLEY'S COMET!

THUS IT WAS THAT PANIC STRUCK THE HEART OF MODERN MAN--EVEN AS IT DID HIS BROTHERS OF YESTERYEAR...
BLINKY MARLOW--THE WANTED JEWEL THIEF!
I-I HEARD ABOUT THE COMET... I WANT TO GIVE MYSELF UP AND REDEEM MYSELF BEFORE DEATH!

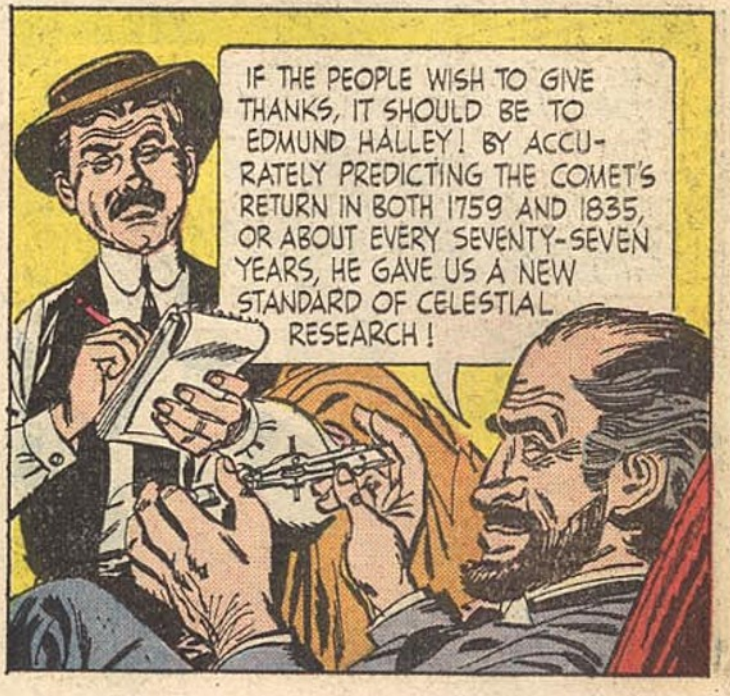
SOME PEOPLE DREW OUT THEIR LIFE'S SAVINGS TO SQUANDER...
TAKE MY MONEY--TAKE ALL OF IT... ENJOY YOURSELVES WHILE YOU CAN! I HAVE NO USE FOR IT NOW!

THE "GREAT MOMENT" FINALLY CAME...
THERE... THERE IT IS--HALLEY'S COMET, JUST AS PREDICTED!
TH-THE LAST SIGHT WE'LL SEE ON EARTH... H-HOLD MY HAND, JOHN!

TWILIGHT ZONE
THE MAN WHO HAUNTED HIMSELF
LAZY OAF! YOU DARE SLIP OFF TO THE GYPSY CAMP WHEN YOU HAVE WORK TO DO ATTENDING ME!
LIFE WAS HARD FOR THE FARMERS AND MINERS NEAR NEWCASTLE! BUT STILL HARDER TO BEAR WAS THE TYRANNY OF THEIR LANDLORD AND MASTER--THE RUTHLESS LORD LAMONT!
I-I WAS MERELY GOING TO ASK SANDO TO HELP ME WITH HIS GYPSY MAGIC... MY FAMILY IN NEWCASTLE ARE ILL...
BACK TO THE MANOR--SUCH MYSTERIES ARE NOT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU, TREACHER!
THE NOBLE LORD LAMONT--HE BECOMES MORE CRUEL EACH YEAR! I WONDER... IS IT HIS GREAT WEALTH THAT MAKES HIM SO?

AND ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAPPENED...
IT'S PASSED BY... AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN GASSED -- WE'RE ALIVE!
WHEW! GUESS WE CAN THANK OUR... LUCKY STARS!

ACTUALLY, NO THANKS WERE REQUIRED -- SCIENTISTS SOON REVEALED THE FACTS...
AND YOU CAN TELL YOUR READERS THAT THE CYANOGEN GAS IN A COMET'S TAIL IS HARDLY STRONG ENOUGH TO POISON ONE FIELD MOUSE ON EARTH!


IF THE PEOPLE WISH TO GIVE THANKS, IT SHOULD BE TO EDMUND HALLEY! BY ACCURATELY PREDICTING THE COMET'S RETURN IN BOTH 1759 AND 1835, OR ABOUT EVERY SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS, HE GAVE US A NEW STANDARD OF CELESTIAL RESEARCH!

THUS WAS ANOTHER ONE OF MAN'S COUNTLESS FEARS VANQUISHED! BUT WHAT OF TOMORROW... AND THE WONDERS THAT AWAIT US OUT THERE! WILL WE AGAIN FACE THE UNKNOWN WITH FEAR? ONLY TIME WILL TELL...
FOUR SECONDS AND COUNTING... THREE... TWO... ONE... BLAST OFF!
VENUS -- MAYBE THIS TIME WE'LL LEARN WHAT'S REALLY THERE!

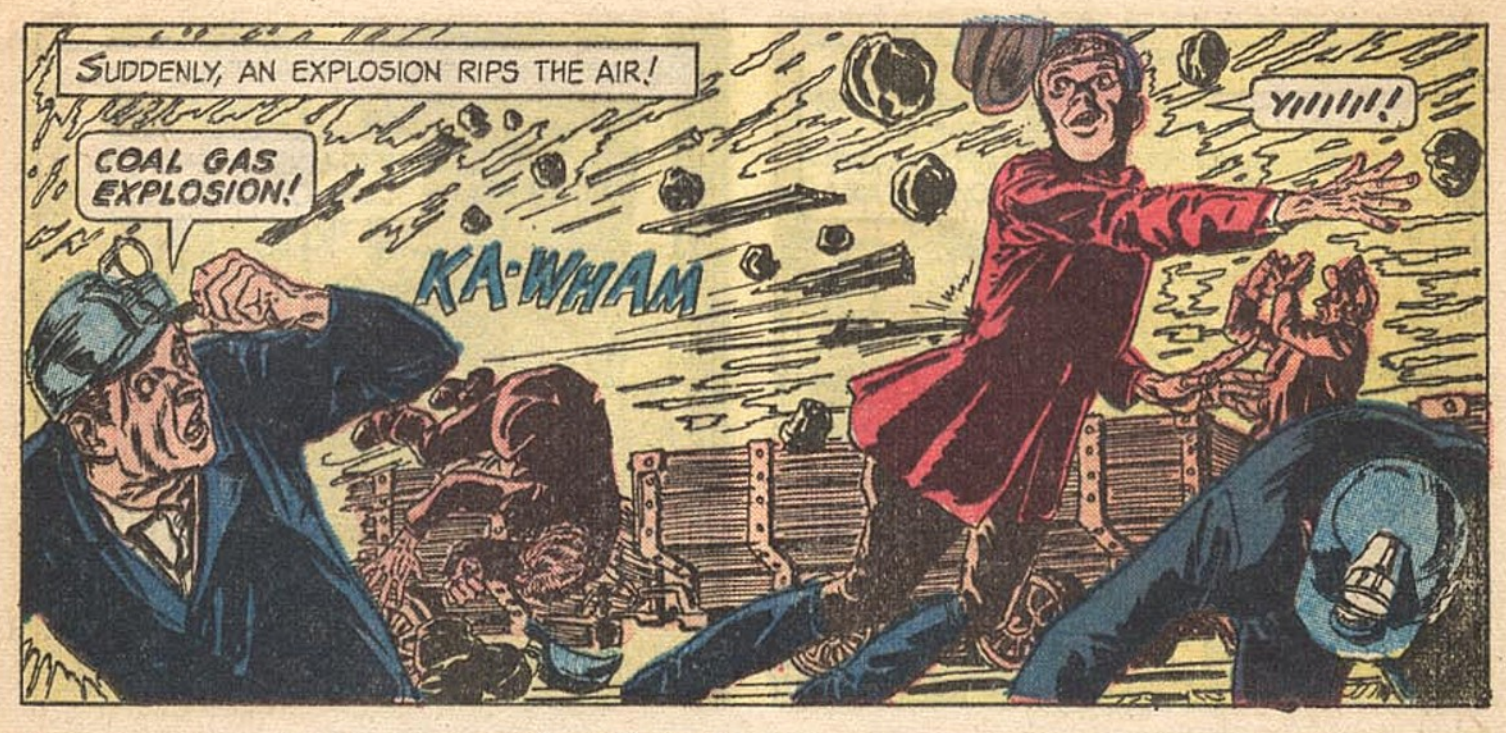
AND INDEED, THE GYPSY SANDO HAS GOOD CAUSE TO WONDER--FOR AT THE LAMONT MINE, CONDITIONS ARE MORE SUITED TO ANIMALS THAN MEN...
LORD LAMONT'S WATERY GRUEL AGAIN FOR LUNCH-- 'TIS A MIRACLE WE HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DIG HIS COAL...
AYE, IT IS HOPELESS...

WE ARE ALL IN HIS DEBT... AND OVER-CHARGED FOR THE FOOD, SHELTER AND CLOTHING WE ARE FORCED TO PURCHASE FROM HIM! THE BLIGHTER IS MAKING SURE WE SPEND OUR LIVES SLAVING FOR HIM HERE...

AND AS THE YEARS GO BY HE LIVES IN HIS LUXURIOUS MANOR -- WHILE WE CAMP LIKE PACK RATS IN HIS LEAKY SHACKS!
THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE, MY FRIEND --PERHAPS ONE DAY HE WILL CHANGE HIS WAYS...PERHAPS!

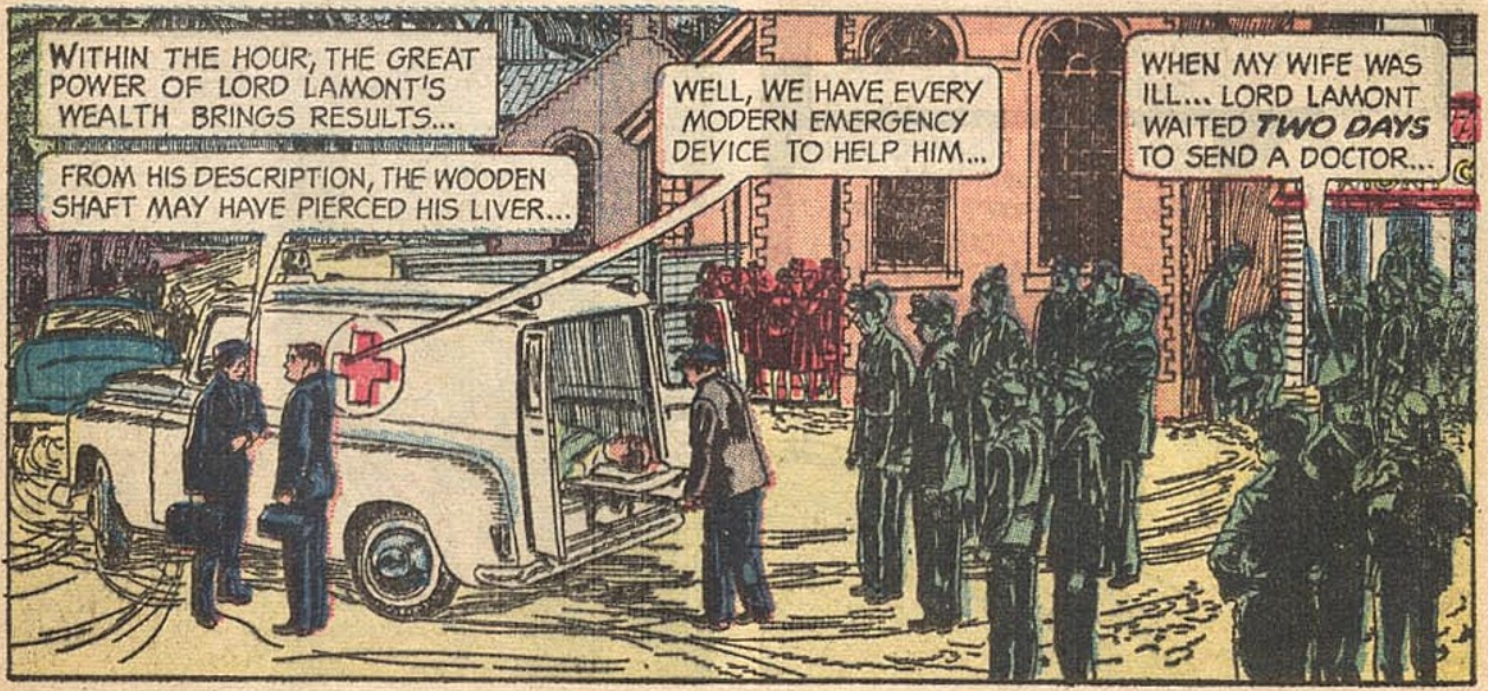
IT IS THE VERY NEXT MORNING THAT DESTINY MOVES IN TO TAKE A HAND IN THE PLIGHT OF THE LAMONT COMPANY MINERS...
GET A MOVE ON, YOU RABBLE --I HAVE A CONTRACT TO FILL! OLD WOMEN COULD DIG FASTER...
OH, IF ONCE... JUST ONCE I DARED STAND UP TO THAT BLIGHTER...

I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU, STONE--YOU'RE A SHIRKER... AND SURLY TO BOOT! MIND YOUR STEP OR I'LL DEMAND PAYMENT IN FULL FOR YOUR DEBT!
YES... SIR!

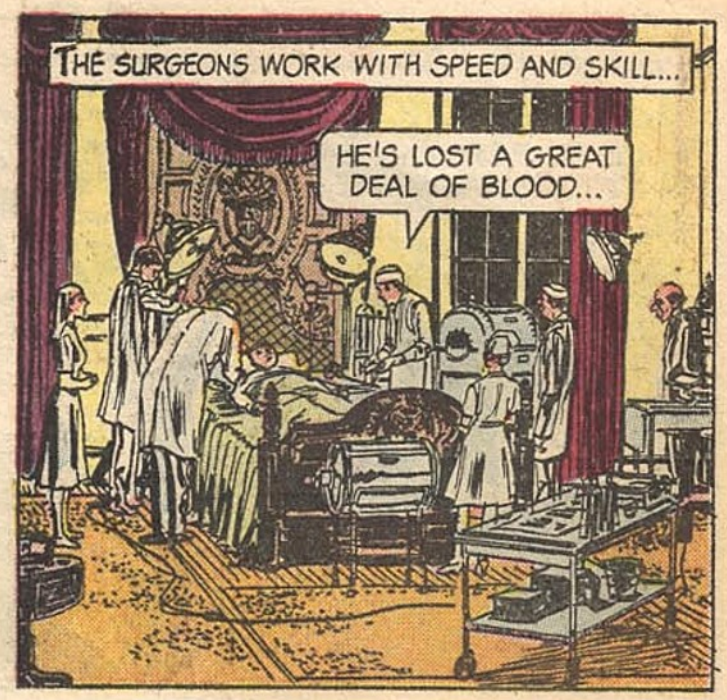

SUDDENLY, AN EXPLOSION RIPS THE AIR!
COAL GAS EXPLOSION!
KA-WHAM
YIIIII!!

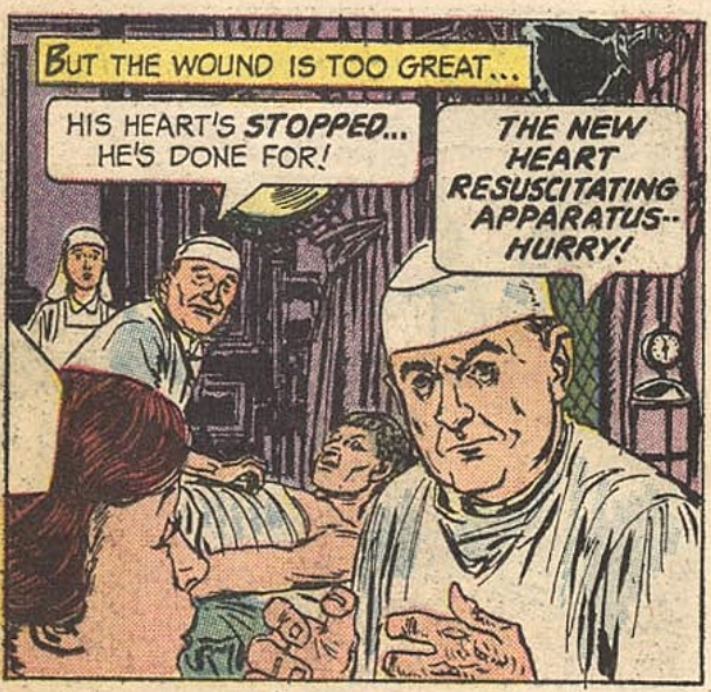
D-DON'T STAND THERE JIBBERING -- CALL THE HOSPITAL IN NEWCASTLE AND GET ME TO THE PHONE!
AT ONCE, LORD LAMONT...

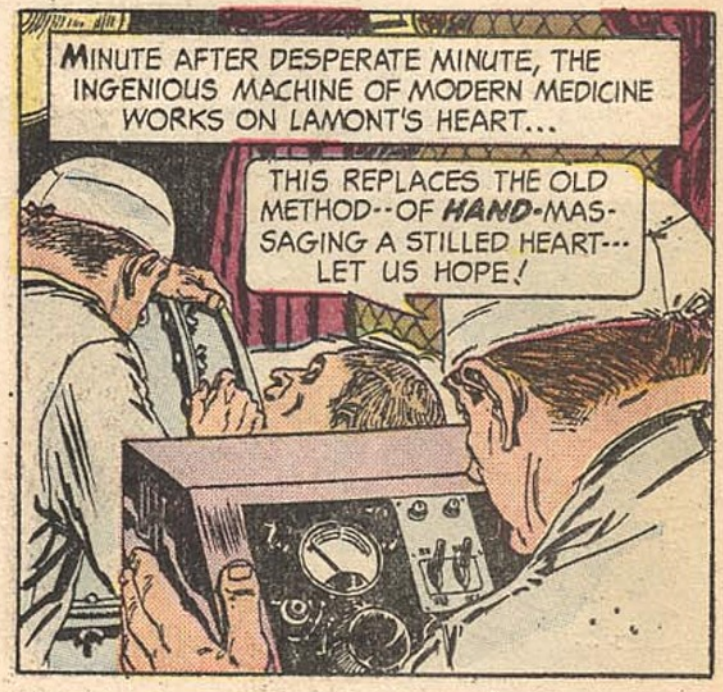
THEN...
NOW HEAR ME WELL! I WANT YOUR LATEST EQUIPMENT, YOUR FINEST SURGEONS SENT HERE AT ONCE! COST IS NO OBJECT -- AND IF I DIE I'LL SEE THAT YOUR HOSPITAL NEVER GETS ANOTHER DONATION FROM MY NEWCASTLE FRIENDS!
Y-YES, LORD LAMONT!

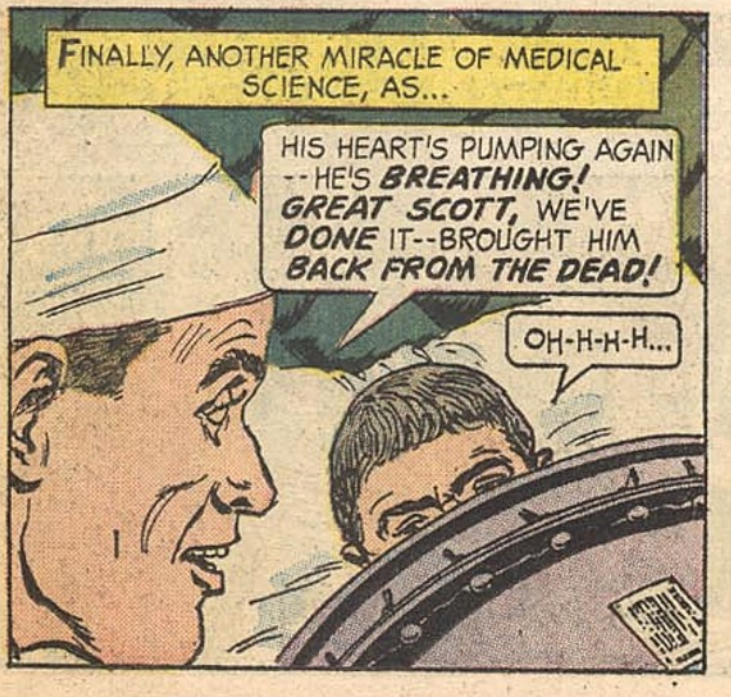

WITHIN THE HOUR, THE GREAT POWER OF LORD LAMONT'S WEALTH BRINGS RESULTS...
FROM HIS DESCRIPTION, THE WOODEN SHAFT MAY HAVE PIERCED HIS LIVER...
WELL, WE HAVE EVERY MODERN EMERGENCY DEVICE TO HELP HIM...
WHEN MY WIFE WAS ILL... LORD LAMONT WAITED TWO DAYS TO SEND A DOCTOR...

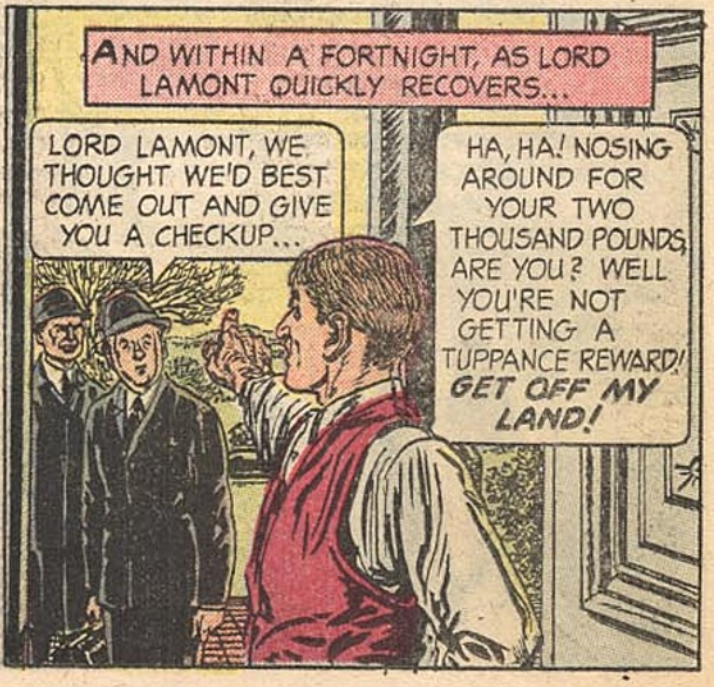
AND SHORTLY...
A-A THOUSAND POUNDS... TWO THOUSAND POUNDS TO EACH OF YOU...IF I LIVE...
WE'LL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, LORD LAMONT--NOW RELAX!


THE SURGEONS WORK WITH SPEED AND SKILL...
HE'S LOST A GREAT DEAL OF BLOOD...


BUT THE WOUND IS TOO GREAT...
HIS HEART'S STOPPED... HE'S DONE FOR!
THE NEW HEART RESUSCITATING APPARATUS--HURRY!

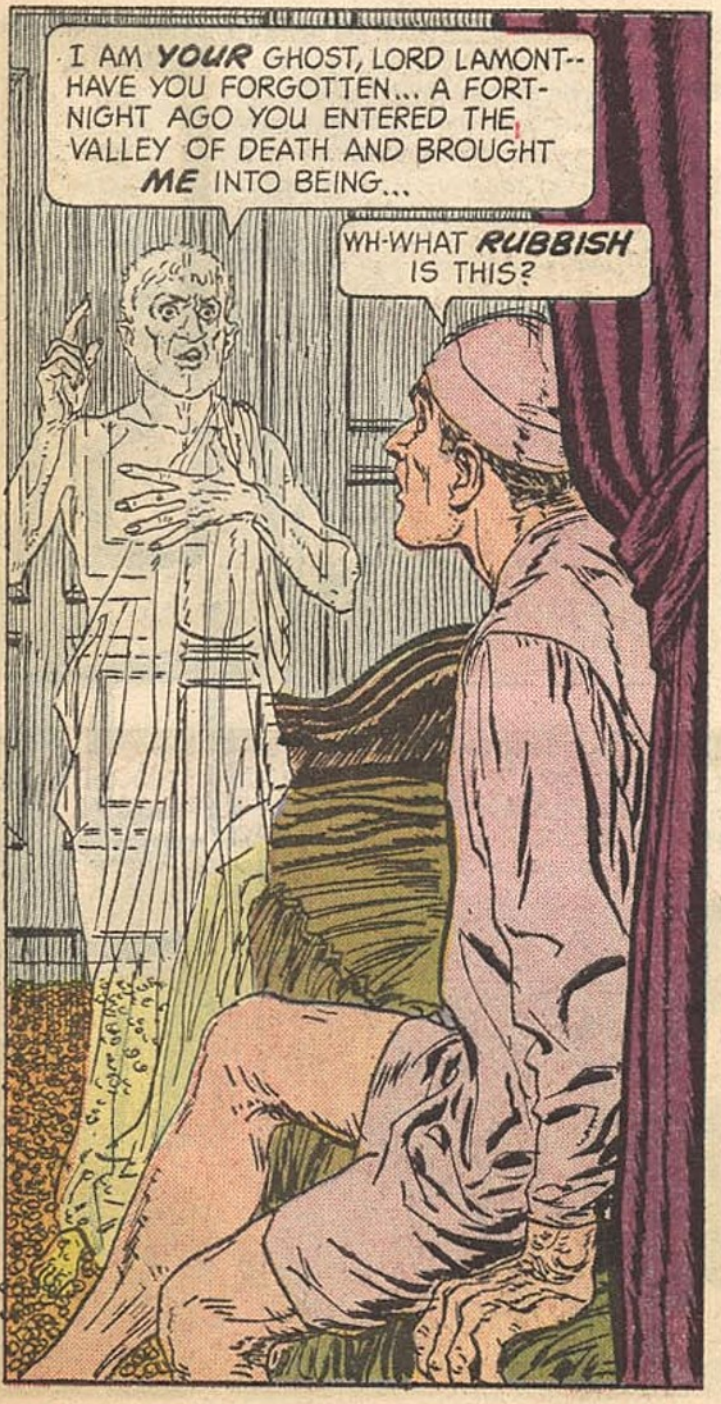

MINUTE AFTER DESPERATE MINUTE, THE INGENIOUS MACHINE OF MODERN MEDICINE WORKS ON LAMONT'S HEART...
THIS REPLACES THE OLD METHOD--OF HAND-MASSAGING A STILLED HEART--- LET US HOPE!


FINALLY, ANOTHER MIRACLE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, AS...
HIS HEART'S PUMPING AGAIN --HE'S BREATHING! GREAT SCOTT, WE'VE DONE IT--BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD!
OH-H-H-H...


AND WITHIN A FORTNIGHT, AS LORD LAMONT QUICKLY RECOVERS...
LORD LAMONT, WE THOUGHT WE'D BEST COME OUT AND GIVE YOU A CHECKUP...
HA, HA! NOSING AROUND FOR YOUR TWO THOUSAND POUNDS, ARE YOU? WELL YOU'RE NOT GETTING A TUPPANCE REWARD! GET OFF MY LAND!

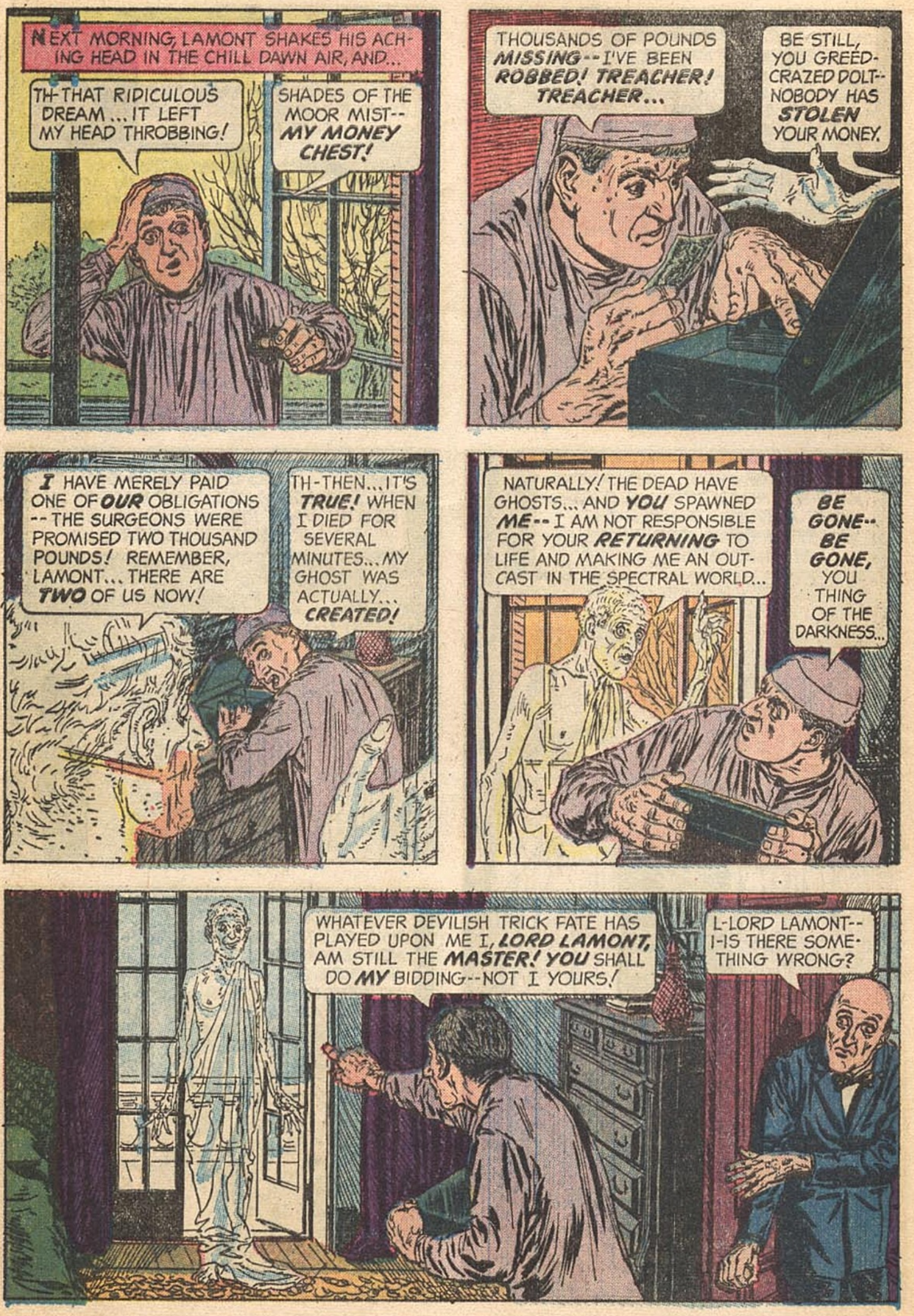
HA, HA, HA!
WHAT MANNER OF MAN BE THAT--BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SHADOWS OF DEATH ITSELF, ONLY TO INSULT HIS SAVIORS?
HE HAS A HEART BLACK AS THE COAL YOU DIG, DUNSTER--BEST LEAVE BEFORE HE TAKES HIS CROP TO YOU!

BUT THE BIZARRE DESTINY THAT TRIGGERED AN ACCIDENT AND CREATED A MEDICAL MIRACLE HAS ONLY BEGUN TO CHANGE LORD LAMONT'S LIFE! THAT NIGHT...
WHAT'S THAT? WHO'S IN MY CHAMBERS?


I AM YOUR GHOST, LORD LAMONT--HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN... A FORTNIGHT AGO YOU ENTERED THE VALLEY OF DEATH AND BROUGHT ME INTO BEING...
WH-WHAT RUBBISH IS THIS?

HARK WELL, THIS IS NO FOOL'S GAME WE PLAY, LAMONT! YOU CAME BACK FROM DEATH'S DARK PIT--BUT WHILE THERE I, YOUR GHOST, WAS BORN...

IT WAS YOUR ERROR THAT CREATED ME--AND NOW I AM YOUR RESPONSIBILITY... FOR I AM YOU, LAMONT, AND YOU ARE ME!
YAAAA!


NEXT MORNING, LAMONT SHAKES HIS ACHING HEAD IN THE CHILL DAWN AIR, AND...
TH-THAT RIDICULOUS DREAM ... IT LEFT MY HEAD THROBBING!
SHADES OF THE MOOR MIST-- MY MONEY CHEST!
THOUSANDS OF POUNDS MISSING--I'VE BEEN ROBBED! TREACHER! TREACHER...
BE STILL, YOU GREED-CRAZED DOLT-- NOBODY HAS STOLEN YOUR MONEY.
I HAVE MERELY PAID ONE OF OUR OBLIGATIONS -- THE SURGEONS WERE PROMISED TWO THOUSAND POUNDS! REMEMBER, LAMONT... THERE ARE TWO OF US NOW!
TH-THEN... IT'S TRUE! WHEN I DIED FOR SEVERAL MINUTES... MY GHOST WAS ACTUALLY... CREATED!
NATURALLY! THE DEAD HAVE GHOSTS... AND YOU SPAWNED ME-- I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR RETURNING TO LIFE AND MAKING ME AN OUTCAST IN THE SPECTRAL WORLD...
BE GONE-- BE GONE, YOU THING OF THE DARKNESS...
WHATEVER DEVILISH TRICK FATE HAS PLAYED UPON ME I, LORD LAMONT, AM STILL THE MASTER! YOU SHALL DO MY BIDDING--NOT I YOURS!
L-LORD LAMONT-- I-IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

CLOTHE ME, YOU CRINGING OAF, THEN SADDLE MY HORSE!

AND LATER, THE LANDOWNER'S WRATH CRACKLES LIKE A THUNDERBOLT OVER HIS WORKERS...
GET MOVING, YOU LAZY LOUT, STONE, SHIRKING YOUR JOB AGAIN, ARE YOU...
JUST ADJUSTING MY MINER'S CAP, I AM... SIR...

SUDDENLY, LAMONT'S HAND COMES BACK...
INSOLENT SWINE--I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON... H-HUH?
THIS IS YOUR LESSON FOR TODAY, MY TREACHEROUS SOULMATE--HENCEFORTH WE SHALL NOT USE BRUTALITY!

YOU...YOU HOVERING HULK OF PROTOPLASM--NOBODY ORDERS LORD LAMONT! NOBODY!
RAVING AT THE WIND! BLIMEY--THE OLD TYRANT HAS FINALLY FLIPPED HIS RUDDY TOPPER!

AND LATER, AS LAMONT PACES IN HELPLESS RAGE...
HERE I AM, SIR...
WHAT IN THUNDER DO YOU WANT, DUNSTER?

WHY, I'VE COME LIKE YOU ASKED ME-- TO PICK UP THE BONUS YOU'VE DECIDED TO GIVE THE MEN!
BONUS? I'LL...

SUDDENLY...
YOIKS --- THAT'S QUITE A STUNT IT IS --THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR ALL THE MEN, LORD LAMONT!
MMFFF!

A BONUS FROM THE LIKES OF HIM -- 'TIS TRUE, HE MUST 'AVE GONE BLOOMIN' MAD!
SOMETHING ...I-I MUST DO SOME-THING!

TREACHER--TREACHER AND THE GYPSIES! THAT'S IT! I'LL RID MYSELF OF THAT SPECIAL CURSE ONCE AND FOR ALL!

LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, LAMONT RIDES INTO THE MOORS...
MUST WORK, IT'S GOT TO...

THEN...
SANDO--I MUST RID MYSELF OF A GHOST--BUT THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL GHOST!
I HAVE DONE SUCH THINGS, LORD LAMONT! TELL ME ALL!

AND WHEN LAMONT HAS REVEALED HIS BIZARRE TALE...
FIRE BRIGHT... WATER BOIL... FREE LORD LAMONT OF ALL HIS TOIL...
NOW, MILORD... DROP ALL YOUR JEWELRY AND MONEY WITHIN THE MAGIC MIXTURE!
H-HUH? BUT--

DO AS I BID--ELSE ALL MY INCANTATIONS ARE WORTHLESS!
A-ALL RIGHT, SANDO...

OF... JEWELS AND GOLD... HE GIVES HIS MOST...

...THUS... BANISH FOREVER HIS EARTHBOUND GHOST!

IT IS DONE, LORD LAMONT! WHEN NEXT YOUR SPECIAL FORM APPEARS UNCORK THE MYSTIC FUMES BEFORE HIM... HE WILL TROUBLE YOU NO MORE!
GOOD, GOOD, SANDO!

YOU WERE VERY KIND, SANDO... TO A MAN SO CRUEL!
PERHAPS NOT SO KIND, FRIEND... THERE WAS ONE THING I DID NOT TELL HIM!

AND THAT NIGHT, THE GLOATING, BALEFUL EYES OF LORD LAMONT PIERCE THE DARKNESS...WAITING...

GREETINGS, MY EARTHBOUND PERSONAGE--YOU SEEM TO BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE! PERHAPS YOU PLAN ANOTHER EVIL DEED THIS EVENING?
YES...

YES... PERHAPS I DO...

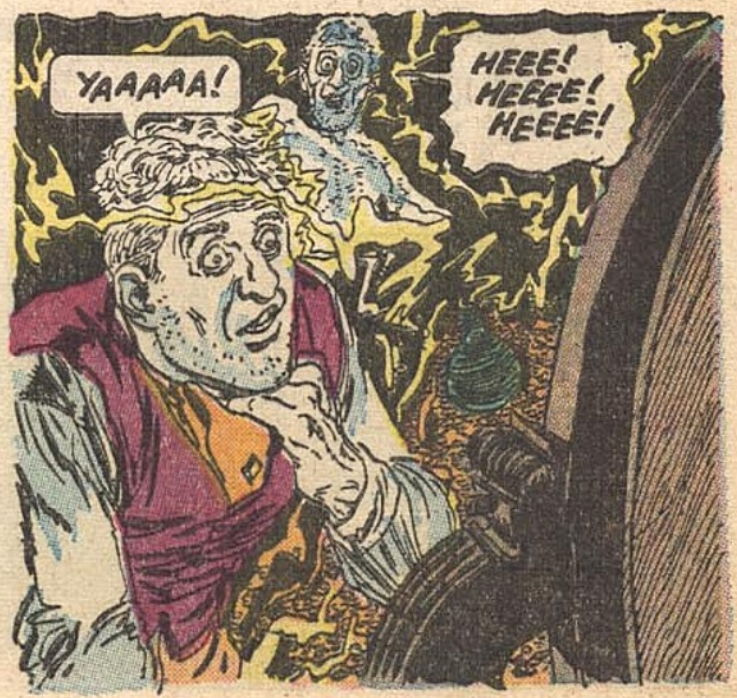
AND THE DEED IS AGAINST YOU, THIS TIME--- MY NIGHTMARISH WRAITH!
EH?? SMOKE... EVIL FUMES...

IT'S WORKING... SANDO'S MAGIC POTION IS KILLING YOU!

YOU'RE BREAKING UP--VANISHING... I'M RIDDING MYSELF OF YOUR ACCURSED HAUNTING FOREVER!
YE-EEES...

IT IS TRUE... YOU HAVE TRICKED ME... HA, HA...
BUT... HA, HA... YOU FORGOT ONE THING... THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A GHOST FOR A MAN ... AND WHEN I'M GONE...
...YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE MY PLACE! HA! HA! HO! HO!

YOU LIE--MORE OF YOUR TRICKS!
LOOK--LOOK IN THE MIRROR, YOU FOOL--ALREADY YOUR DISEMBODIED SPIRIT IS BEGINNING TO LEAVE YOUR BODY!


YAAAAA!
HEEE! HEEEE! HEEEE!

YOUR GREEDY, EVIL WAYS HAVE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, LORD LAMONT...
DO SOMETHING-- STOP THE PROCESS! I-I'LL PAY YOU...
PAY-- A GHOST--EVEN YOUR REASON HAS TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR HEAD, LAMONT...
I-I'LL MAKE OUT A CONTRACT... GIVE EVERYTHING TO THE WORKERS AT THE MINE... REDEEM MYSELF!
LOOK! LOOK! I'M NOT LYING... HERE IT IS...
AND OUTSIDE THE GRIM CHAMBER DOORS THE HOUSEHOLD HEARS THE CRIES...
LOOK... I'M NOT LYING THIS TIME!
BUT WHEN THEY ENTERED THEY SAW ONLY A WISP OF SMOKE AND SOME BROKEN GLASS! ALL OTHER TRACES OF THE GREAT LORD LAMONT HAD VANISHED INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE!
BLIMEY! LORD LAMONT MUST HAVE LEFT TOWN-- HE'S GIVEN OVER THE WHOLE MINE TO THE WORKERS!

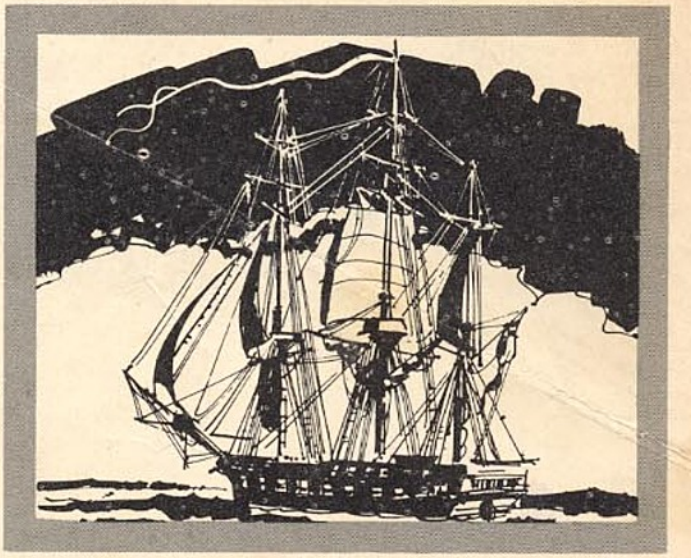
KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

SEAGOING VESSELS

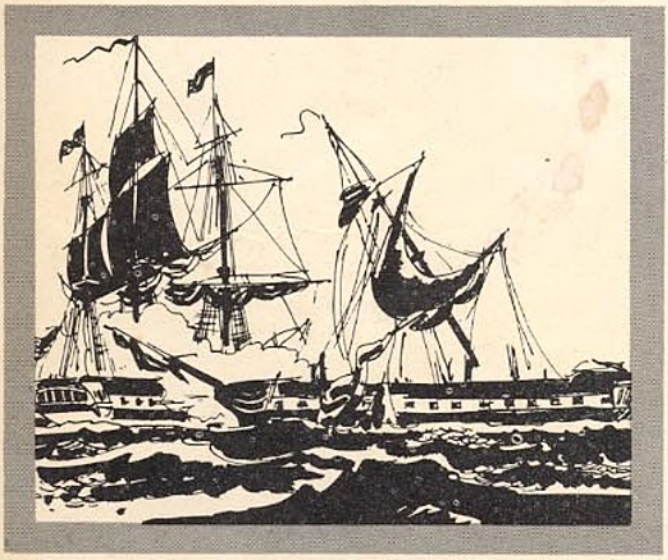
NUMBER 13

THE FRIGATE

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

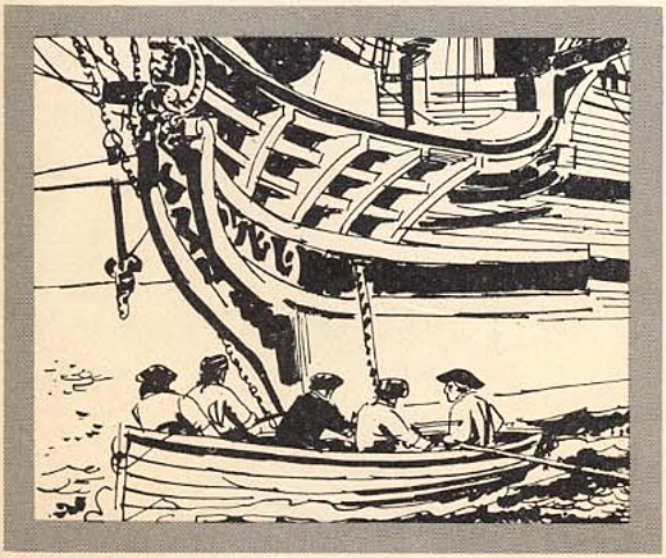


Developed in the 1700's, the Frigate's level decks, clean lines and heavy armament were designed for maximum speed and power.



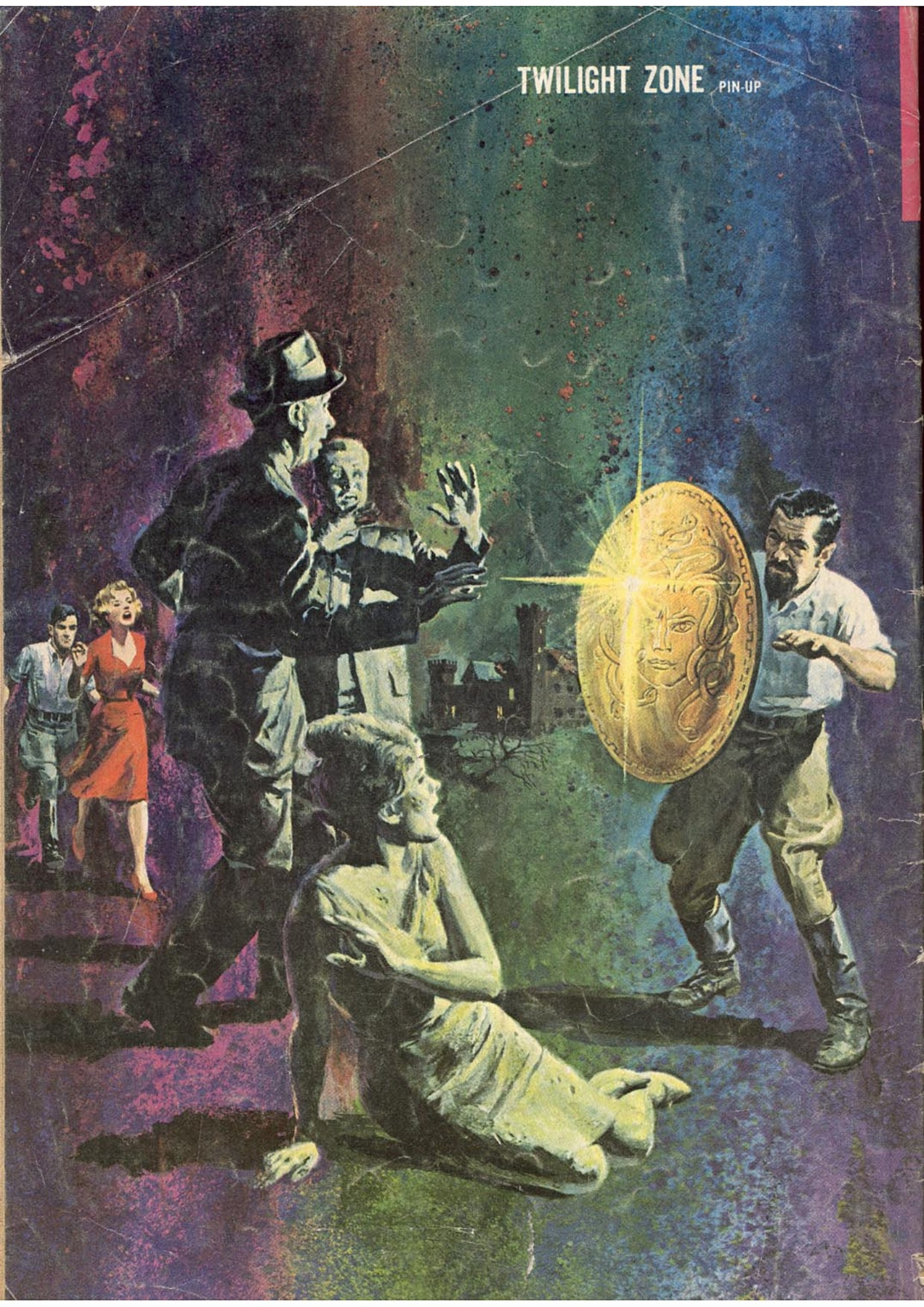
The Constitution, famed as "Old Ironsides" was a frigate. Its timbers were fastened by iron bolts manufactured by Paul Revere.

During wars, shipowners built the frigates as armed "privateers". They hoped to earn large profits by capturing enemy cargoes.



When the wind failed, a frigate's crew could haul her into position for the battle by towing her until a breeze sprang up.

A captured vessel and its cargo were taken to the nearest port to be auctioned as a "prize". Profits were shared by the crew.


TWILIGHT ZONE PIN-UP